FRIDAY
October 4, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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AIR QUALITY CONCERN

SC slams panel over stubble burning

NEWS » PAGE 16

ON THE BOIL

Israel hits intel headquarters of Hezbollah

WORLD » PAGE 18

VOTING TOMORROW

Poll campaigning ends in Haryana

NEWS » PAGE 14

PARLEY

Can EC ensure democracy in political parties?

Often parties are driven by individual charisma

OPINION » PAGE 13

ALL SET

Harmanpreet's India meets NZ in its opener

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Do not try to dislodge elected govts.: Hampana

MYSURU
Noted writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah, who inaugurated the Dasara festivities on Thursday atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru, advised politicians against attempting to dislodge elected governments. » Page 8

FIR against HDK

BENGALURU
The Amruthahalli police on Thursday registered an FIR against Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and former JD(S) MLC H.M. Ramesh Gowda for allegedly demanding ₹50 crore from a Bengaluru-based realtor. » Page 5

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Caste bias, segregation in prisons violate dignity: SC

Central, State jail manuals and laws must be revised within three months, rules the Bench headed by CJI; it says distribution of work on the basis of caste amounts to untouchability

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declared that caste-based discrimination of prisoners, segregation of their work according to caste hierarchy, and the treatment of inmates from the de-notified tribes as "habitual offenders" within prison walls across India are oppressive to fundamental human dignity and personality.

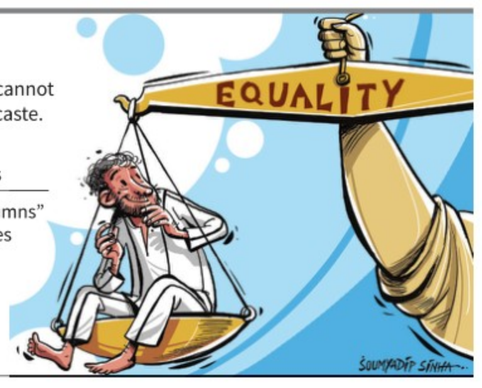
The top court directed the revision of prison manuals within three months. It ordered the deletion of the 'caste column' and any references to caste from registers of undertrials and convicts maintained in prisons. The court underscored that members of de-notified tribes must not be subjected to arbitrary arrest.

Removing bias

The Bench says "everyone is born equal" and cannot suffer lifelong due to stigma attached to their caste.

The directions include:

- States and UTs should revise their Prison Manuals/Rules in three months
- Centre should address caste-based discrimination in the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023 in three months
- "Caste columns" and references to caste in prisoners' registers should be removed



'Violates Constitution'

"Everyone is born equal. There cannot be any stigma attached to the existence, touch or presence of any person... More than 75 years since Independence, we have not been able to eradicate the evil of caste discrimination," a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The CJI, who authored the judgment, referred to Article 15(1) of the Constitution which enshrines the fundamental right against discrimination. "But if the state itself discriminates against a citizen, then it is discrimination of the highest form. After all, the state is expected to prevent discrimination, not perpetuate it," he noted. He held that discrimination among prisoners and distribution of work on the basis of caste amounted to untouchability, which is forbidden under Article 17 of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Internships to bridge job market-skills gap; pilot project takes off

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday opened up a portal for India's top 500 companies to participate in the one-year internship scheme announced in this year's Union Budget to bridge the gap between the skill sets of unemployable youth and those needed by employers.

As many as 111 corporates – including the Mahindra and Mahindra group, Max Life Insurance, and Alembic Pharma – had already signed up within hours of the portal's launch, offering 1,077 internships. This kicks off a process that is expected to result in about one lakh youngsters joining the on-the-job training exercise, officially called The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme in Top Companies, by December 2.

Narendra Modi

Top sources in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which is steering the scheme that aims to train one crore youth in five years, said this is a pilot project being undertaken at a cost of ₹800 crore. The lessons learnt from this will help fine-tune the scheme's design before the Cabinet's approval is sought for a full-fledged rollout.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Three more Pakistani nationals held in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing investigations into the recent arrest of Pakistani nationals in Bengaluru, the Jigani police have tracked down another couple and their minor daughter, who are allegedly Pakistani nationals living in Peenya under false identities.

The accused – Syed Tariq, 51, his wife Anila Tariq, 48, and their 13-year-old daughter – were living in a rented house using the names Chouhan and Deepali Chouhan, said the police.

In custody

Their arrest was made based on the information provided by Rashid Ali Siddiqui, who, along with his wife and in-laws, is currently in police custody.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

India's attitudinal shift under Rohit has hit a different high with its daredevilry

Even a decade back, India would have settled for a draw in circumstances similar to the second Test against Bangladesh. But the host didn't potter around, build a platform and blast off this time. 'No taking the foot off the pedal, no compromise on trying to score quickly' seemed to be the captain's message

AP, SANDEEP SAXENA & R. RAGU

R. Kaushik

The aftershocks of India's seismic approach to the loss of two and half days in the second Test continue to reverberate around the cricket world, which is still boggled with awe and no little amazement by how a near-certain soporific stalemate was roused spectacularly into life.

Bangladesh might have braced themselves for a day and a half of leather-chasing at Kanpur's Green Park; they could have been forgiven for thinking so, because 235 of the scheduled 270 overs were wiped out from days one through three owing to the lack of preparedness of the staging venue. When Bangladesh were bowled out for 233, midway through the second session on day four, the popular belief was that this would be a tedious draw, a mere going through of the motions. If Bangladesh bought into that belief, as most certainly they did, it took only seven deliveries of India's reply to rudely jolt them wide awake.

The first over, Hasan Mahmud to Yashasvi Jaiswal, was routine – as routine as a 12-run over could be, that is. The left-handed opener smashed three boundaries, but each one was out of the textbook, each played to a delivery that deserved punishment in the exact direction in which the ball was despatched. It was 'proper' cricket.

Then came over No. 2, and Khaled Ahmed's first ball of the series. It was also Rohit Sharma's first ball of the match. Rohit had never played against Khaled previously, and conventional wisdom indicated a couple of quiet balls, sizing up the bowler.

Charged atmosphere

Except that India's captain, fantastic and fascinating, hared down the track faster than Khaled approached the bowling crease. His punishing bat came down in a scything arc, the giant sweet spot making excellent contact with the ball and sending it back in the direction from which it came, but with bountiful interest thrown in. The ball sailed way over the long-on fence and scattered the fans in the stands. For a second, there was stunned disbelief. A rubbing of the eyes to ascertain that this wasn't Rohit in the India Blue. That this was Test cricket. Then, the studied hush gave way to a cacophony of noise, the atmosphere charged with electricity. One delivery. One Rohit slice of magic. That's all it took to put the cricket world on notice.

Even a decade back, India, patient India, genteel India, would have settled for a draw in similar circumstances without a second thought. They would have filled their boots on a surface where run-making wasn't extraordinarily difficult on day four and the early part of day five, at the very least. They might have bolstered their aggregate, enhanced their average, maybe increased their tally of hundreds or fifties, and no one would have complained. Indeed, they could have done the same in Kanpur earlier in the week and no one would have said a word. After all, when you lose 87% of the intended play over the first three days of a game, what else could you do?

Oh, you could score at 8.22 runs per over, you know? You could reach the team fifty in a ridiculous 19 deliveries, the hundred in a slightly more stately 62, you know? The fastest to each team milestone in the history of Test cricket. You could add to that the fastest 150, 200 and 250 in the 147-year existence of the Test format. You could destroy and decimate, you could exhilarate and electrify. You could go on the rampage, dump fours and sixes galore on an initially unsuspecting opposition that was now on a pounding to nothing. Simply put, you could score 285 (for nine declared) in 34.4 overs.

Which all is exactly what India did. They didn't potter around, build a platform and blast off. They didn't give the first half-hour, or even the first half-over, to the bowler. At the break between the end of Bangladesh's innings and the start of their own, the skipper laid down the marker – no ambiguity, so scope for misinterpretation. 'We'll go hard at the bowling. We'll keep going hard at the bowling. If that means we are bowled out for 100 or 150, so be it. No taking the foot off the pedal, no compromise on trying to score quickly. Very quickly.' Rohit's message was along these lines. If anyone in the team still wasn't entirely sure if they had read the messaging right, those doubts were dispelled emphatically by his ferocious takedown of Khaled in the latter's first over.

It's one thing to lay down the law, quite another to get everyone to collectively buy into it, readily and without apprehension, without the fear of being judged and worse still, of being axed. By putting the money where his mouth was, Rohit made clear what a 1,000-word rant might not have. Once the skipper set the tone, it was remarkably easy for the others to follow suit – just like at the 50-over home World Cup last year and in the T20 World Cup in the Americas this June.

One-in-a-million captain

In that regard, Rohit is one in a million, blessed with making the early running because he is an opener and making the most of that blessing. He commands respect and reverence with his integrity and honesty in decision-making which, allied with his propensity to take the onus upon himself to announce his team's approach, have made him an instant hit with his colleagues and the fans alike. He has, alongside Gautam Gambhir now and Rahul Dravid before him, rejigged the dynamics of Test cricket while letting the world now that while it's fine to sometimes get carried away with fancy monikers, it's also possible to lay down the gauntlet without a certain pigeonholing of styles and brands of play.

India moved from a sedate style in the Mahendra Singh Dhoni era to a more aggressive mien soon after Virat Kohli took control of the five-day team. Dhoni's hands were tied to an extent because he felt he didn't have the bowling resources, primarily, to compete on an equal footing outside the subcontinent.

With Ravi Shastri, Anil Kumble and then Shastri again, Kohli chose to make his own luck, ruling out any compromise on fitness while also identifying pace as the determining factor in overseas Tests and therefore putting together a fantastic fast bowling group in which Jasprit Bumrah quickly climbed the rungs to establish himself as the leader of the pack.

Rohit has taken India's attitudinal shift to a different plane. He won't risk losing while going for victory (like Kohli did in his first Test as stand-in captain in Adelaide in December 2014) but his first instinct will be to look for full points. India would, rest assured, have found ways and means to scramble with a draw if things hadn't gone to plan in Kanpur, had they actually been rolled over for 120 and conceded a big advantage to the Bangladeshis. But when he sets out to target a victory, he will leave no stone unturned in his desire to do so.

India's Rohit-led turbo-charged batting has taken all the Kanpur plaudits, but how can one forget the efforts of the bowling group in making these 12 World Test Championship points possible? On a pretty good batting track where Rohit might have opted to bat if there was no forecast for rain, they were stunning in getting all ten Bangladesh wickets in 74.2 and 47 overs respectively. Those efforts don't put the conditions in their proper perspective. They do, however, exemplify the effort and the class of Bumrah and his comrades. Had they not bowled Bangladesh out for 233 and given their batters so much time despite so much time lost, not even all the pyrotechnics of the batting brigade would have made a difference.

It will be fanciful to imagine that this is the start of a golden period when India will continue to take this same high-risk approach to every Test innings. Kanpur last Monday demanded such a riposte as India chased vital WTC points; if they find themselves in a similar situation, they will again flex their not inconsiderable batting muscles, though you suspect that Kanpur is more the exception than the norm. But to merely have the audacity, the creativity and the skills to make something out of practically next to nothing - that holds a special charm if you are invested positively in Indian cricket, and a special dread if you are on the other side of the fence.

The gung-ho daredevilry has also brought to the fore the significance top teams attach to the World Test Championship. India needed five wins in their remaining ten Tests at the start of the home season towards the middle of last month to guarantee themselves a place in the WTC final for a third cycle running. They might have left themselves with a little bit more to do had Kanpur unspooled into a dreadful stalemate. \

By preventing that possibility solely on the back of their aggressive mindset, they have given themselves more than a bit of breathing room. In the short term, that's an excellent development.

The long-term ramifications of the Kanpur carnage, however, are the ones that are more exciting. Beyond Rohit and Kohli, this is a remarkably young batting group (31-year-old K.L. Rahul included) which already boasts useful experience of life in the fast lane. Just imagine what mayhem they are capable of unloading in time to come. Just...

THE GIST

- When Bangladesh was bowled out for 233 midway through the second session on day four, the popular belief was that this would be a tedious draw
- It took only seven deliveries of India's reply to rudely jolt the visitor wide awake
- Rohit attacked from the get-go, and once the skipper set the tone, it was remarkably easy for the others to follow suit

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INBRIEF

Second edition of Canara Bank Marathon on Nov. 24

The second edition of Canara Bank marathon 2024 featuring 3k, 5k and 10k runs will be held on November 24, 2024, at Kanteerava stadium, to promote physical health, unity and a happier lifestyle. The bank on Thursday, unveiled the marathon shirt. K. Satyanarayana Raju, Managing Director, Bhavendra Kumar, Ashok Chandra, Debashish Mukherjee, and Hardip Singh Ahluwalia, Executive Directors, were present on the occasion.

'Privacy violations, gender disparities, inclusivity gaps plague public toilets'

Women often pay double the amount that men do to use public toilets. FILE PHOTO

What the study found

Toilets for persons with disabilities: 14 out of 65 available, with 7 locked and 1 inaccessible

Misuse of disability stalls: At Shivajinagar bus stand, a stall designed for persons with disabilities was being used as a storeroom

Accessibility issues for elderly: 50% of toilets were sit-down toilets, posing challenges for elderly users

Child-friendly urinals: Lack of such facilities adds a burden on parents

Female staff shortage: Concerns over the absence of female staff in female toilet areas

Sanitary products: Lack of availability of sanitary products creates challenges for women using public toilets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's public toilet infrastructure faces significant challenges, including privacy violations, gender-based disparities in access and pricing, and a lack of inclusivity, a recent study has revealed.

Research conducted by R.V. University's Centre for Disability Justice and Inclusion (CDJI) and Centre for Gender Studies (CGS) sheds light on the alarming state of public sanitation facilities across the city.

A key finding from the report highlights concerns around privacy for women, as some male toilets are visible from the female sections, compromising safety and comfort for women, contributing to an environment where public spaces remain challenging for them to navigate. Moreover, gender disparity in pricing is another critical issue. Women often pay double the amount that men do which is ₹10 compared to ₹5 to use public toilets. Despite paying more, they still face inadequate access to clean and safe facilities, with the unavailability of sanitary products further marginalizing women, stated the report.

The study also underscores the lack of provisions for transgender individuals, with only two out of 65 surveyed toilets having facilities that cater to their needs. Additionally, out of 65 toilets, only 14 provided stalls for persons with disabilities, and several of these were either locked or inaccessible. In a particularly concerning example, a disability-specific stall at the Shivajinagar Bus Stand was being used as a storeroom, the study said.

"Family-friendly amenities are also sorely lacking. Only one toilet had a baby-changing station, and this was exclusively in the women's section, ignoring the needs of fathers and other caregivers," it added.

WFH waning? Bengaluru tops demand for office space

Bengaluru, along with Hyderabad, accounted for over half of the leasing activity in the first three quarters of 2024

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Sandhya Shetty, an employee of a media company in east Bengaluru, said, "We were working from home since the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of this year, we have been asked to go to office twice a week."

Signalling this increasing shift, many companies are working towards bringing employees back to office post the pandemic. Bengaluru, along with Hyderabad, accounted for over half of the leasing activity in the first three quarters of 2024, wherein Grade A office space demand went up to 46.7 million sq ft across the top six cities of India (Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Pune).

The technology sector drove around one-fourth of the overall office space demand during the quarter, followed by banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) occupiers, and flex space operators (co-working spaces). FILE PHOTO

Highest ever leasing

According to Colliers, a multinational real estate services company, building on the momentum in the first half of the year, Q3 2024 saw space take-up to the tune of 17.3 million sq ft, a 31% year-over-year (YoY) growth. "Bengaluru registered its highest ever leasing in any quarter at 6.3 million sq ft, continuing its dominance in the office market," the company said."

"Office demand across different markets and sectors has been impressive in the last two to three years, aiding overall leasing reach new highs each passing year.

Interestingly, 2024 saw consecutive quarters of high growth in demand and supply. Office space demand in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai have reached close to or surpassed 2023 demand levels in the first three quarters of 2024," said Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office Services, India, Colliers.

He added that occupier confidence is reflected in continued higher uptake of large-size deals of more than 1 lakh sq ft, accounting for 65% of total leasing in Q3 2024. Bengaluru saw 81% of its leasing through large-sized deals.

Property consultancy Knight Frank India too, in their 'India Real Estate: Residential and Office Q3 2024 (July - September 2024),' said Bengaluru recorded office space transactions of 5.3 mn sq.ft in the quarter, leading the growth of India's commercial market, accounting for 28% of the 19 mn sq.ft of transactions across the top eight cities.

"The city saw a remarkable YoY growth of 158%, mainly driven by the establishment of Global Capability Centers (GCCs) by corporations aiming to expand their long-term operations in the region," the report said.

Tech sector

The technology sector drove around one-fourth of the overall office space demand during the quarter, followed by Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) occupiers, and Flex space operators (co-working spaces).

Bengaluru and Pune surpassed Mumbai in BFSI leasing.

"The strong demand does reflect the stricter enforcement of Return-to-Office (RTO) mandate amongst leading MNCs. With corporates increasingly adopting a mix of persuasive and coercive measures to bring employees physically back to offices, real estate requirements have been on the upswing in the last few quarters. The RTO trend has been gaining traction globally. India, in fact, leads most countries in this particular aspect. Across most occupier segments, including technology, corporate India has been consistently witnessing a RTO percentage of 75% or more," said Vimal Nadar, Senior Director and Head of Research, Colliers India..

Amal Mishra, founder and CEO, UrbanVault, a Bengaluru-based managed office space provider, concurred, "The demand for office space has been steadily rising over the past few years, and this trend has continued into 2024. The majority of this demand is concentrated in Grade A office spaces, with managed flexible spaces experiencing significant growth. Many corporations are now opting for managed flexible office spaces due to the flexibility they offer and the lower capital expenditure required. This shift is driven by the need for adaptable work environments that can scale with business needs."

GCCs in India

Adding that the demand will persist as numerous MNCs are establishing GCCs in India, while domestic companies are also upgrading their office spaces to accommodate growth and modernisation, he said almost all companies have now transitioned back to working from offices, with only a few continuing to operate under a hybrid model.

"This shift is driven by the need for better collaboration, easier communication, and fostering company culture, which are often more challenging in a fully remote environment. Unless there is another pandemic-like situation, we anticipate the demand for Grade A office spaces and flexible workspaces to continue on an upward trajectory," he said.

Cab driver found dead near Bidadi railway station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old cab driver was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a parked car near Bidadi railway station on Thursday. The deceased, Muzammil Sharif from D.J. Halli, was discovered after passers-by noticed the car parked on the roadside for a few hours and alerted the police.

The police broke open the window and rushed him to a nearby hospital where a doctor confirmed that he was dead. The police found the contact details from the car and informed the family after confirming his identity. They suspect that the death was due to poisoning, but are waiting for the post-mortem report to ascertain the cause and rule out any foul play.

There was no death note found at the scene of crime. The police have registered a case of suspicious death and are waiting to question the family members.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on ph: 104 for help)

Gang of five arrested for assaulting father-son duo

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The DJ Halli police arrested a gang of five youth who allegedly assaulted a 33-year-old man and his father after he foiled a bike theft attempt in Shampura on Monday.

The accused Syed Saad, Usman Khan, Syed Salman, Praveen and Santosh allegedly tried to steal the bike of Arun Kumar, which was parked outside the house. Arun had left the key in the bike and was having lunch at the godown where he was working when the accused tried to steal it.

Hearing the sound of his bike, Arun Kumar rushed out and caught the accused and snatched the key from them. The accused allegedly assaulted Arun with a knife and threatened to set his bike on fire. They even assaulted Arun's father, Kalyani, who had come to his son's rescue. The five then escaped.

The duo went to the hospital for treatment and filed a complaint with the police against the unknown people for trying to steal his bike and for assault.

Second attack

The accused allegedly returned in the evening and assaulted Arun again for complaining to the police and damaged the bike and the CCTV installed by the BBMP to destroy the evidence.

Drug trafficking

The police tracked down the accused and arrested them and found that Santosh, had photos of tablets in his phone. When the police questioned him, they found that the accused was buying the tablets from a medical store to be used as an alternative for drugs. The police raided the medical store in Electronics City and seized the tablets before alerting the Drug Control Department for further action.

The accused have been booked under Prevention of Damage and Destruction to Public Property, voluntarily causing hurt, using dangerous weapons, mischief with preparation for causing to any person death, or hurt, or wrongful restraint, criminal intimidation and intentional insult with the intent to provoke a breach of peace against them.

All five have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody while further investigations are on.

Bescom announces downtime for upgradation of RAPDRP IT applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has announced a planned downtime for the upgradation of RAPDRP (Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Program) IT applications as part of the IPDS IT Phase-2 project.

According to a release, the system downtime will begin at 9 p.m. on Friday and will last until 6 a.m. on October 7.

The upcoming Phase-2 will see the rollout of upgraded applications related to Estimates, EAM, GIS, IDAM, EAS, Master Data Management, and Mobile App.

Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom, said, "Bescom is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Part-A IT project for all ESCOMs in Karnataka, covering towns with populations over 30,000. We assure our consumers and stakeholders that the new applications will enhance efficiency and improve user experience once they are operational by 6 a.m. on October, 7, 2024.

Affected services

During the downtime, the following services will be impacted: RAPDRP Applications will be unavailable for ESCOM officials for routine operations such as processing new connections, name and tariff changes, name transfers, and temporary connections.

Consumers will be unable to make payments at Bescom cash counters.

The consumer portal will be inaccessible for service requests, including new connections, name and address changes. Online bill payments via the consumer portal and third-party payment channels will be unavailable from 9 p.m. on October 4, to 11 a.m. on October 5, 2024.

The bill payment will resume after 11 a.m. on October 5, 2024. Mobile applications for the RAPDRP area will be affected. Store transactions through WAMS will be halted.

The release said the following places under Bescom would be affected by the upgradation works: Bengaluru, Shiddlaghatta, Chickballapur, Kolar, Chintamani, Kanakapura, Ramanagara, Davangere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Sira, Channapatna, Anekal, Mulabagilu, Bangarapet, Hoskote, Doddaballapur, KGF, Challakere, Kunigal, Harapanahalli, Harihara, Hiriyur, Tiptur, and Gauribidanur.

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Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 Hrs on 17.10.2024**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Project Manager/ Signal & Telecom/ Gati Shakti Mysuru
PUB/469/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.Y/E-29/ 2024-25/56-57 Dated 23.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Description of Work	Approx. Value
Sagara Jambagaru : Provision of FOB (Foot Over Bridge) at Sagara Jambagaru	Rs. 3,79,636/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs. on 14.10.2024**

Description of Work	Approx. Value
Construction of Merchant Room and Labour Rest Room at Ranibennur and Haveri	Rs. 15,13,212/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs. on 15.10.2024**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
PUB/467/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public are hereby informed that, my client is intending to purchase the schedule property from its rightful owner Smt. **Kathyayini Hiremath** D/o late S Eswaradevbarau, Aged about 41 years, Residing No.61/1, 4th N Block, 59th A Cross, Near Gnana Jyothi Vidya Mandir, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, who claims to have acquired title to the same by virtue of a Final Decree proceeding dated 11.10.2022 one passed by City Civil Court in FDP No.23/2017, which has been registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Gandinagar, (Hebbala) Bangalore as Document No. HBB-1-03648-2022-23 dated 16.02.2023.
If any persons, banks, financial institutions having any claims, right, title, interest, objections of whatsoever either towards schedule property or its transaction, then they can file their objections along with all necessary documents to the under mentioned within 10 days from the date of this notice. Failing which, it is deemed that there is no objection whatsoever from anyone in dealing with the property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of vacant residential site bearing No.18, BBMP Ward No.03, BBMP Property No.183/42/7, formed Converted land bearing old Sy.No.42/1, New No.42/7, situated at Santhosh Nagara, Attur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore, measuring east to west 30 feet and north to south 50 feet, totally measuring 1500 Sq.feet and bounded on:
EAST BY : Site No.17, WEST BY : Site No.19, NORTH BY : Road, SOUTH BY : Property belongs to Thimmakka.
DIVAKARA, Advocate
No.70, 15th Cross, 6th A Main, J.C. Nagara, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560 086.
Mob: 9845309404.
Mail : divakar.yashu@gmail.com
Bangalore Date : 2.10.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients, Smt. D. Sandhya and Sri. C.H Anil Kumar are intending to purchase property bearing survey No. 65/1 measuring to an extent of 3 acres 13 guntas situated at Bettadasanapura Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore morefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the schedule property from its absolute owner Smt. Swarna Latha. The owner represents and warrants that she is the absolute owner of the schedule property and has neither conveyed nor has entered into any agreement of sale / development agreement /memorandum of understanding nor any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale / transfer/ development of the schedule property. The owner further represents that she has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any charge or lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from her there is no other person/s, firm or company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having objections or claim/s, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claim/s **within 15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my clients shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing property bearing, survey No. 65/1 measuring to an extent of 3 acres 13 guntas situated at Bettadasanapura Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the :- EAST By : Road, WEST By : Ameer Sab's Land, NORTH BY : Manjunath's Land, SOUTH By : Bingipura Boundary.
ANUPAMA. M.V, Advocate
No. G-5, Gokula Residency, Govinda Shetty Palya Road, Konappana Agrahara, Electronic City Post, Bangalore - 560 100.
PH: 9901423129 PH: 9972796711

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that my client **SRI.P.V.SHABAREESH S/o.Sri. Late.P.K.Venugopal,** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MR. GOVINDARAJULU SESHACHALAM S/o. Mr.Seshachalam;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Site No.82,** BBMP Katha Sl.2211, House List Katha No.11, Situated at **Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** Measuring East to West **62 Feet,** North to South **100 Feet,** totally Measuring **6200 Square Feet** along with a residential building constructed thereon,(BBMP) Ward No.54, and bounded on the: **East by : Site No.81; West by : Site No.83; North by : Government Road; South by : Site No's. 96 and 97;**
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9108784843, 80-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public are hereby notified that my clients are intends to enter into a Joint Development Agreement to develop the schedule property into a multistoried residential apartment. The Owner Mr.Mohammed Siddiq, S/o Mr.Mushtaq Ahmed have represent and warrant that he is the absolute owner of the property hereunder mentioned as Item No.1 & 2 and that there is no dispute to his ownership to the schedule property if anybody has any manner of right title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the schedule property they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing along with the photocopies of documents supporting their objections, with the undersigned within 5 days from the date of publication of this notice objections received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE ITEM NO.1 PROPERTY
ALL that piece and parcel of residential Site No.52 , formed by the Bangalore Development Authority known and situated at Green Orchards Layout, Byrasandra Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.153, Measuring East to West 16.45 + 16.15 / 2 Meters, and North to South 12.00 Meters, Totally 195.60 Sq. meter's BBMP PID No.62-192-52. And bounded by East by Road, West by Private Property, North by BDA Site No.51, and South by BDA Site No.53,
SCHEDULE ITEM NO.2 PROPERTY
ALL that piece and parcel of residential Site No's.53, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority known and situated at Green Orchards Layout, Byrasandra Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.153, Measuring East to West 15.90 + 16.15 / 2 Meters, and North to South 12.00 Meters, Totally 192 Sq. meter's . BBMP PID No.62-192-53. And bounded by East by Road, West by Private Property, North by BDA Site No.52, and South by BDA Site No.54.
ASCENT LEGAL INC.,
AKHIL AHMED .P, Advocate
No.3, BTM 1st Stage,
Bangalore-560029 | Mob: 9880354972

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General Public that my client intends to purchase the schedule property described hereunder from **Sri. K. G. Mruthyunjaya** S/o Sri. Gangappa Kamaganahalli, aged about 63 years, residing at # 1936, 'C' Block, Kodigehalli Main Road, Sahakaranagara, Bengaluru North, Bangalore 560 092. Any person/s claiming to have any charge, lien, interest, minor claims, right/s whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 12.10.2024 failing which my client will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing No. 1936, situated in layout formed by the Ministry of Communications Employee's Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk named "Sahakaranagara", Bengaluru-560 092, Measuring East to West 40 Feet North to South: 30 Feet, And bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No. 1955, **North by:** Site No. 1937; and **South by:** Site No. 1935.
The schedule property consists of a residential building measuring 42 Squares having basement, ground and two upper floors with Mosaic Flooring, main doors are of neem wood and other doors and windows are of neem wood.
K. PALLAVI HOLLA, Advocate
#33, 2nd Floor, "Swayam Prabhe", North Park Road, American Colony, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560 001. Ph: 9845500957

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT, BENGALURU
M.C. No.6017/2023
PETITIONER: Jaya John -VS- RESPONDENTS: Vikas Mathew & Another
RESPONDENT No.2:
MS. GAURI TANMOY @ GAURI ANAAHATA, Aged 45 years, wife of Tanmoy, Presently residing c/o Vikas Mathew, Cottage No. 532, House of Hiranandani Ward 1, Crossgate, Prasanahalli Village, Devanahalli Taluk, **Bangalore-562110.**
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No.2
WHEREAS the above named Petitioner has made application to the Court under the provisions of **SECTIONS 10(1)(i), 10(1)(ix) and 10(1)(x) OF THE DIVORCE ACT, 1869** seeking inter alia a decree dissolving her marriage with the First Respondent dated 24/10/2004 in the St.Mary's Jacobite Syrian Cathedral, Kuruppampady P.O, Ernakulam District, Kerala-683 545 vide Certificate bearing Reg No.5/280 in accordance with Syrian Orthodox Christian rites, ceremonies, customs and tenets.
You are hereby warned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the 11th day of November 2024 at 11:00 am in the forenoon to show cause against the application failing which the said application will be heard and determined against you Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 13th day of September 2024.
ADVOCATES FOR PETITIONER
Messrs Rego & Rego,
Advocates
N-509, Manipal Centre, #47/73, Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560 042.
By Order of the Court
sd/-
Sheristedar
Family Court, Bangalore

The war on sickle cell disease: how one hospital is making a difference

Sickle cell disease shortens life by at least twenty years. Slow-progressing organ failure is common in older patients, and acute chest syndrome, a form of lung injury, is a significant cause of death among the young. The symptoms vary among patients, leading to a wide range of complications

Dawn Kuruvilla

Sickle cell patients at Health Centre Bagicha, Jashpur in Chhattisgarh. FILE PHOTO

I know sickle cell disease (SCD) less from the medical textbooks and more from the suffering of patients I've treated. Over time, this disease has ceased to be just a diagnosis on a chart. It has become something I deeply despise from the core of my being. It has drawn many of my young, tender-looking patients into painful crises, causing me to cry out in desperation, hoping to see it eradicated – though I know that's just a daydream. Because it's a genetic illness with no definitive cure to date.

But desperation and hopelessness cannot be the final word. In Agatha Christie's words, "I like living. I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all, I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing." For the sake of patients, the fight continues, no matter the adversity. We cannot lose.

The brutality of the disease

I have witnessed first hand the plight of young people afflicted by sickle cell disease at three mission hospitals. Patients come in with intense pain, high fever, chest infections, or severe anaemia, needing blood transfusions. Whether in southern Odisha, north Maharashtra, or western Uttar Pradesh, the patients are almost always poor, young, rural, and from the same family.

Sickle cell disease shortens life by at least twenty years. Slow-progressing organ failure is common in older patients, and acute chest syndrome, a form of lung injury, is a significant cause of death among the young. The disease's symptoms vary widely among patients, leading to a wide range of complications from anaemia due to the destruction of blood cells to blockage of blood vessels in limbs, causing both severe pain and death due to organ failure.

Practising medicine is generally hard, but over time, you learn to trust in your skills, hoping that drugs and interventions will relieve suffering. However, sickle cell disease has the reputation of defeating even the most courageous healthcare professionals.

Doctors on the frontlines

I attribute much of my knowledge about managing this disease to Dr. Ashita Singh, with whom I worked at Chinchpada Christian Hospital in Maharashtra. She has seen this dreaded disease up close and has not shrunk back in horror, but has loved her patients, looking for ways to relieve the suffering of patients and improve their quality of life.

She has dealt with several practical challenges in the management of the disease.

Since sickle cell disease is a genetic condition, its treatment is lifelong. Only gene therapy or bone marrow transplant can cure it, but these treatments are out of reach for many in India because of the costs. But Dr. Ashita, who works in a resource-poor setting, has moved mountains to introduce measures that can help control the disease's symptoms, making it bearable for the poor patients who receive treatment from her. Her hard work has upheld the health and dignity of many of her patients through various hospital initiatives that deal with the reality of living with sickle cell disease.

Chinchpada Hospital's initiatives

One of Chinchpada Hospital's most significant initiatives is that the hospital secured State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) cards for around 250 of the 350 sickle cell disease patients. These took two years to procure.

The cards guarantee that patients will receive free blood transfusions across Maharashtra, a vital service that can be lifesaving for those suffering from severe anaemia.

Recognising that sickle cell disease patients are highly prone to infections like bacterial pneumonia, influenza, and meningitis, the hospital has also provided these patients free preventive vaccinations for all these diseases. This challenging but crucial task will prevent patients from developing life-threatening infections.

The hospital has subsidised the cost of hydroxyurea, a drug that reduces the defective haemoglobin entity (Hb S) and increases normal haemoglobin by using hospital funds and donations. Hydroxyurea is a drug that reduces the number of times a patient has worsening symptoms or life-threatening crises. It also minimises the need for blood transfusions. Subsidising this drug has significantly improved patient compliance, as patients can afford to take it for as long as their disease requires, increasing their quality of life. The government, too, should recognise hydroxyurea's benefits and make it cost-free.

The hospital works to enrol SCD patients in government disability schemes, ensuring they receive regular pensions and other essential benefits. With the help of donors and well-wishers, the hospital treats life-threatening infections and anaemia episodes at low costs or even writes off bills. They also provide free food to patients and their families, thus meeting their nutritional needs during treatment, especially during extended hospital stays. The hospital's experience in palliative care has been instrumental in providing effective pain relief and symptom management for SCD patients.

Since sickle cell disease is a genetic condition, its treatment is lifelong. Only gene therapy or bone marrow transplant can cure it, but these treatments are out of reach for many in India because of the costs

The hospital organises events like World Sickle Cell Day and sends personalised birthday cards to patients. These efforts help patients feel valued and supported, reinforcing the hospital's commitment to their well-being.

On a community basis, the hospital conducts awareness programs in villages and schools to educate the community about SCD, its symptoms, and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Teachers, some of whom are patients of the disease, play a vital role in identifying children with symptoms and ensuring they receive appropriate care.

The hospital opposes policies promoting the diagnosis of sickle cell disease in a child during pregnancy, which might lead to abortions.

A battle that is far from over

Despite these remarkable efforts, the battle against sickle cell disease is far from over. The disease remains a significant challenge, mainly where medical students and young doctors need adequate training to recognise and treat it. The lack of awareness and testing facilities further exacerbates the problem, leading to many undiagnosed and untreated cases.

My experiences in Uttar Pradesh highlight the widespread ignorance about SCD. Many patients had been receiving iron supplements for years before being correctly diagnosed with SCD. We must work hard to educate, manage, and give hope to these lives because it's our collective pain.

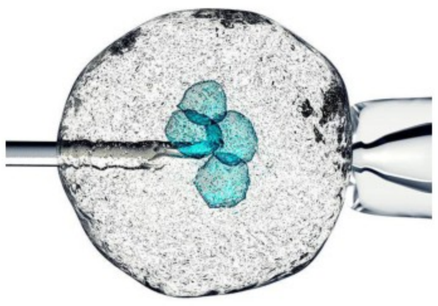
This message Dr. Ashita sent me after losing a young lady to a recent SCD crisis reminds us why we can't lose. *"Twenty-year-old J had been off hydroxyurea treatment for the last few years and came to the hospital with acute chest syndrome following a severe vaso-occlusive crisis. Despite our best efforts, she passed away, joining her sister, who had died from a sickle cell crisis a few years earlier. This loss, like so many others, compels us to continue our fight against this terrible disease."*

In conclusion, our experience from Chinchpada Hospital shows that our approach to tackling SCD must be comprehensive, addressing not just the medical aspects but also the socio-economic factors perpetuating suffering. We must continue to fight for the lives of those suffering from SCD because every life is worth saving, and we can't afford to lose this battle.

- With inputs from ***Christianez Ratna Kiruba***

(Dr. Dawn Kuruvilla is a physician working in a secondary mission hospital at UP-Jiwan Jyoti Christian Hospital at Sonbhadra. He is passionate about bedside clinical medicine and bringing hope and clarity to patients in despair and senseless suffering.)

(Dr. Christianez Ratna Kiruba is an internal medicine doctor with a passion for patient rights advocacy. christianezdennis@gmail.com)



Although stem cell therapy does show positive outcomes in a controlled setting, there exist several challenges in achieving desired results in real-world practice. GETTY IMAGES

Stem cells to fix T1 diabetes? The Indian perspective

Nanditha Arun

Stem cell therapy is a cutting-edge development in regenerative medicine that holds the promise of a functional cure for Type 1 diabetes (T1D) by enabling the body to regenerate insulin-producing beta cells.

A report of a woman with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in China who regained her insulin production made headlines recently. She received a transplantation of reprogrammed stem cells that reportedly "reversed" the disease. It marks a significant milestone in diabetes management. This is the first ever successful breakthrough in regenerating functional insulin-producing cells through stem cell therapy. There are other such trials that are still underway.

T1D is an autoimmune condition where the immune system attacks and destroys the insulin producing beta cells of the pancreas, resulting in diabetes. That means you are insulin-dependent to manage the ailment for life. For decades, managing T1D has relied on insulin therapy alone. In type 2 diabetes, the insulin that is produced by the body is either insufficient or ineffective, which is managed mostly by taking oral drugs.

Stem cell therapy in T1DM

The concept of stem cell therapy lies in regenerative medicine. Pluripotent stem cells that have the ability to transform into any cell type are pre-programmed into insulin-producing cells and transplanted into the human body. These pre-programmed cells will then start producing insulin and help regulate glucose. This is a potential game-changer

T1D is a condition where the immune system attacks insulin producing beta cells of the pancreas, resulting in diabetes

in the treatment of T1D. Scientists have been making great strides in creating the cells that would mimic the pancreatic islets in functionality from different pluripotent stem cell sources.

The challenges

Although stem cell therapy does show positive outcomes in a controlled setting, there exist several challenges in achieving desired results in real-world practice. Firstly, the fact that it is an invasive procedure, and any invasive procedure carries risks. Also, newly-transplanted cells are prone to rejection by the body and will require long-term immune suppression that could cause infections and cancer. Even the encapsulation technology that protects the transplanted cells from immune rejection carries a risk in the long term.

The Indian perspective

In India, there are more than 8.6 lakh people living with T1D. The costs of healthcare for a person with T1D are far higher than for a person with the more common type 2 diabetes. The day-to-day life of a person with T1D can be challenging, considering total dependence on externally administered, multiple daily insulin injections. As it occurs very early in life, there is also a likelihood of early complications. In our country, where the demand and costs are high, treatments involving stem cells are far from reality.

If successful, stem cell therapy could essentially cure the disease. However, considering the cost and, scalability ; more time may be required to establish stem cell therapy as a routine treatment for T1D.

(Dr. Nanditha Arun is consultant diabetologist at Dr. A. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospitals. dr.nanditha.arun@gmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The role of fasting in metabolic health

Anjali Srivastava

QUESTION 1

During extended periods of fasting, the body shifts from using glucose as its primary fuel source to producing molecules from fat stores. What are these molecules called, which provide an alternative energy source for the brain and muscles?

QUESTION 2

When fasting, the body triggers the release of a specific hormone produced in the stomach that signals hunger and stimulates the release of growth hormone. Paradoxically, this hormone also plays a role in maintaining insulin sensitivity. What is the name of this hormone?

QUESTION 3

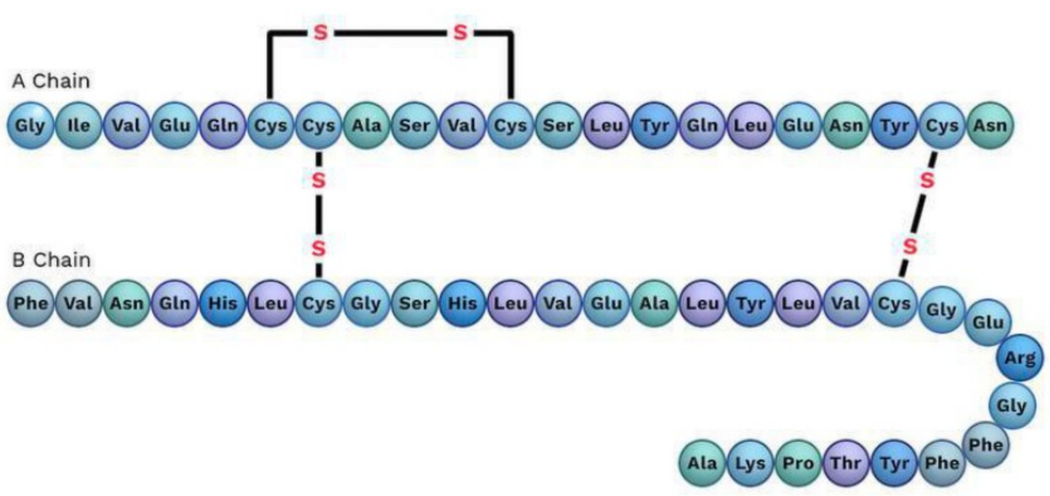
Fasting involves the activation of a group of proteins often linked to lifespan extension and disease prevention. _____ is the name of these longevity-related proteins activated by fasting.

QUESTION 4

Human survival has been shaped by periods of food scarcity, driving the evolution of metabolic adaptations that allowed ancient humans to thrive in fasting conditions. This concept suggests that the ability to store fat efficiently may have once provided an evolutionary advantage. What is the name of this evolutionary theory?

QUESTION 5

_____ is a metabolic condition, often improved by fasting, characterised by high blood sugar and insulin resistance.



Visual question: Identify the structure of the hormone shown in the image that is secreted by the pancreas and regulates blood sugar levels, which decreases during fasting and allows fat cells to release stored energy.

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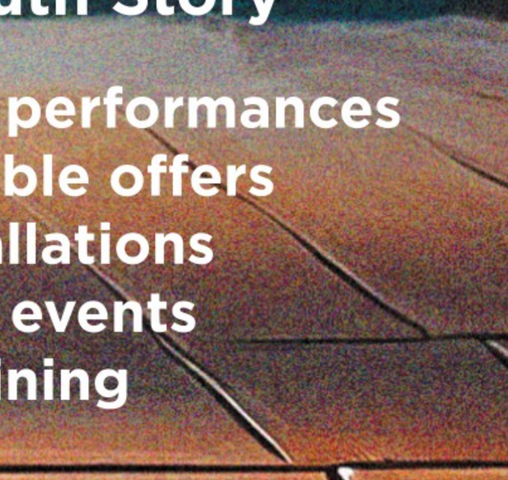

* Terms & Conditions apply

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of cases registered under the NDPS in H.P. last year

2,147 According to police data, 3,118 people, including six foreigners, were arrested in Himachal Pradesh under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in 2023. PTI

Amount released by the UN for Nigeria flood victims

5 in $ million. The country's monsoon has killed more than 300 people and it has affected more than 1.2 million people in at least 31 out of its 36 States, according to the National Emergency Management Agency. AFP

The total cost of the PM Internship scheme in 2024-25

800 In crore. On Thursday, the government rolled out an internship programme that will provide financial assistance of ₹60,000 per annum to 1 crore youth over five years. PTI

Number of Lebanese people killed in Israel-Hezbollah crossfire

1,928 This figure includes those who have been killed since the Gaza war erupted on October 7, 2023, according to Lebanon's disaster management agency. AFP

The loan approved to support Himachal tourism

162 In $ million. The Asian Development Bank has approved a loan to support sustainable tourism development projects in Himachal Pradesh. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On SIPCOT and Tamil Nadu industries

When was the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) formed? Has it generated job opportunities? Where was the first ever SIPCOT industrial park established? How has it improved the State's industrial sector? What about startups?

EXPLAINER

Sangeetha Kandavel

The story so far:

On September 28, Tata Motors Group, producer of commercial and passenger vehicles, held the groundbreaking ceremony of its new, world-class production facility to manufacture cars and SUVs, at the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) industrial park at Panapakkam in Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu. This is Tamil Nadu's 50th SIPCOT industrial park and the 27th SIPCOT park of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government. The Tamil Nadu government has set a target of becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2030 and SIPCOT will play a crucial role in helping the State reach this goal.

Why was SIPCOT formed?

SIPCOT was established on March 25, 1971 with the objective to plan, develop, operate and promote industrial growth in Tamil Nadu. It was started with a vision to promote medium and large scale industries in Tamil Nadu, as the State was in the nascent stage of its industrial growth with the initial success of the MSME sector. The first industrial park was established in Ranipet in 1973, with the land extent for the first phase here being 729.79 acres. Thirumalai Chemicals Pvt. Ltd (47.25 acres), Ultra Marines & Pigments Ltd. (19.10 acres) and SRP Tools Ltd (13.5 acres) were the initial firms that booked space at the first SIPCOT park.

How did SIPCOT distribute itself?

According to details provided by SIPCOT Managing Director K. Senthil Raj, in the initial years, two industrial parks were established – Ranipet and Hosur, with the former focussing on leather, chemicals and pharma industries while the latter focused on automobiles and the general engineering sector.

Quick rise: The SIPCOT industrial estate in Ranipet, Tamil Nadu. FILE PHOTO

Further information shared by SIPCOT shows that Kanchipuram was developed as an auto and electronics cluster, due to its proximity to the capital Chennai, and because of the presence of companies like Hyundai Motors, Yamaha, Eicher, Renault Nissan, Daimler, Foxconn, Flextronics and Samsung among others. Chengalpattu was developed as an IT cluster due to the presence of IT majors like TCS, CTS, Syntel and Hexaware to name a few and has now emerged as a data centre hub. Additionally, Hosur in Krishnagiri district was developed to have a SIPCOT park to take advantage of the human and intellectual capital of Bangalore. To promote the development of industrially backward districts, Manamadurai, Nilakotai, Pudukottai, Gangaikondan etc were also developed.

Currently, Tamil Nadu has 50 SIPCOT industrial parks. Around 17 more parks will come up in the next one year while many of the existing parks will be expanded. Mr. Senthil Raj stated that the data showed that SIPCOT has been instrumental in the establishment and growth of 3,290 industrial units with a cumulative investment of about ₹1.85 lakh crore over the past 53 years, generating over 8.20 lakh job opportunities.

What efforts is SIPCOT taking to improve industrial growth in T.N.?

Currently, SIPCOT is focusing on promoting sector specific industrial parks such as an international furniture park at Thoothukudi; a medical devices park at Oragadam; electronic manufacturing clusters at Manallur and Pillaipakkam; mega food parks at Manapparai, Tindivanam and Theni; a future mobility park and a e-vehicle park at Shoolagiri and Manallur respectively. Efforts are also being taken to provide accommodation to the workforce, with SIPCOT developing an industrial housing facility with 18,720 beds at Vallam-Vadagal. Apart from this, it has also formed a Special Purpose Vehicle called the Tamil Nadu Industrial Housing Private Limited (TNIHPL) to provide affordable and sustainable housing for industrial workers. Currently, TNIHPL is developing a 807-bedded working womens' hostel in the SIPCOT Industrial Park, Siruseri.

Additionally to manage water, Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) water is being supplied to industries located in the Kanchipuram district from the 45 MLD TTRO plant established by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) in Koyambedu. SIPCOT is also establishing a 20 MLD TTRO plant at Kelavarapalli to cater to the water requirements of industries located in the Hosur area.

What is SIPCOT trying to do in the startup eco-system?

SIPCOT Industrial Innovation Centres (SIIC) have been established in SIPCOT industrial parks at Hosur and Sriperumbudur at a project cost of ₹33.46 crore by availing a grant of ₹14.20 crore from the Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) scheme under the State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu.

According to Mr. Senthil Raj, these centres are envisioned as world-class incubation centres capable of nurturing and accelerating industrial innovations and technology powered startups, boosting the growth of the high-technology sector in Tamil Nadu and further strengthening the productivity and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector. SIPCOT envisages to evaluate over 1,000 innovative ideas, over 200 prototypes and promote 30 startups' graduation till the seed investment stage. SIPCOT is also developing a state-of-the-art skill development centre in SIPCOT Industrial Park, Shoolagiri, Krishnagiri district.

THE GIST

- SIPCOT was established on March 25, 1971 with the objective to plan, develop, operate and promote industrial growth in Tamil Nadu.
- Currently, Tamil Nadu has 50 SIPCOT industrial parks. Around 17 more parks will come up in the next one year while many of the existing parks will be expanded. SIPCOT has been instrumental in the establishment and growth of 3,290 industrial units with a cumulative investment of about ₹1.85 lakh crore over the past 53 years, generating over 8.20 lakh job opportunities.
- SIPCOT envisages to evaluate over 1,000 innovative ideas, over 200 prototypes and promote 30 startups' graduation till the seed investment stage.

What is the status of the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0?

What are the various health and environmental risks arising from legacy waste dumpsites?

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The story so far:

India has more than 3,000 legacy waste dumpsites, with 2,424 of them having a waste load of more than 1,000 tonnes. The Central government launched the legacy waste management project as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0 in October 2021, for a period of five years till 2026. However, more than halfway through the time period, only 471 out of the 2,424, that is 19.43% of dumpsites have been completely remediated.

What are legacy waste dumpsites?

Legacy waste dumpsites are dumpsites that contain solid waste that have been collected and stored for years in an unscientific and uncontrolled manner. Municipal solid waste generation in India is estimated to be around 1,50,000 tonnes per day, according to the State of India's Environment 2023 report. With almost no installed facility in India for handling solid waste, the municipal corporations, municipal councils and *nagar* (city) panchayats have traditionally opted for creating man-made garbage hills.

These dumpsites originally developed on the outskirts of the cities. However, with the expansion of cities, these sites are now often found in the heart of cities on barren land or in landfills. According to estimates of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, approximately 15,000 acres of prime real estate is buried under nearly 16 crore tonnes of legacy waste across the country.

What are the health hazards?

Legacy waste dumpsites can pose a number of health hazards for citizens. Exposure to emissions from hazardous waste can irritate the mouth and throat. Inhaling methane from landfills can cause nausea, vomiting, and loss of coordination. Ragpickers who work at landfills can develop skin allergies from years of exposure to waste. People who live near landfills may be prone to developing tuberculosis, asthma, diabetes, depression, cholera, malaria, and other diseases. They are also a source of greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane and carbon dioxide.

What is the Swachh Bharat Mission?

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) or Clean India Mission is a country-wide campaign launched by the Central government on October 2, 2014 to eliminate open defecation and to create Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages. The mission aimed to achieve an "open-defecation free" India by October 2, 2019 coinciding with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi through the construction of toilets.

In 2021, the Government launched its second edition – the five-year Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), committing to making all cities "garbage-free cities" by 2026, while maintaining ODF status across 4,372 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). It also has a vision of 100% source segregation, door to door collection and scientific management of all fractions of waste, including safe disposal in scientific landfills. The SBM 2.0 aims to remediate all legacy dumpsites and convert them into green zones. The mission has also made provisions for scientific landfills to dispose of untreated inert waste and process rejects, in order to prevent fresh dumpsites being created.

Action plans amounting to ₹3,226 crore of Central Share (CS) assistance on remediation of legacy waste dumpsites has been approved so far. An advisory has also been issued to the States/Union Territory administrations on landfill reclamation. As per financial norms of centrally sponsored schemes, State/ UT governments are required to put in a matching share from their own side, while disbursing the funds to respective ULBs.

What has been the progress so far?

According to the dashboard of the Swachh Bharat Mission website, as on September 24, out of the 2,424 dumpsites, 471 sites have been remediated, remediation in 1,226 has been approved and is on-going, and 727 sites have been untouched. As far as area is concerned, of the total 17,039.71 acres, 27 % has been reclaimed and 73% is yet to be reclaimed.

Among States, Tamil Nadu has the maximum area reclaimed from dumpsites at 837 acres (42%). Gujarat is the best performing State with 75% area (698 out of 938 acres) of landfills reclaimed.

THE GIST

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- Exposure to emissions from hazardous waste can irritate the mouth and throat. Inhaling methane from landfills can cause nausea, vomiting, and loss of coordination.

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat and Kala Utsav contests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGLAURU

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya AFS Yelahanka will host the regional-level Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat and Kala Utsav competitions. P. Devakumar, JC (Acad), KVS, will be the chief guest and will inaugurate the ceremony on Saturday. Deputy Commissioner, KVS RO Bengaluru, Dharmendra Patle, will be the guest of honour.

The event, which will be held on October 5 and 6, will have performances in vocal music, instrumental music, dance, theatre, visual arts, traditional storytelling, group song, group dance, display of artefacts and on-the-spot painting. Around 300 students from 53 Kendriya Vidyalayas of Karnataka will take part.

Jewellery exhibition

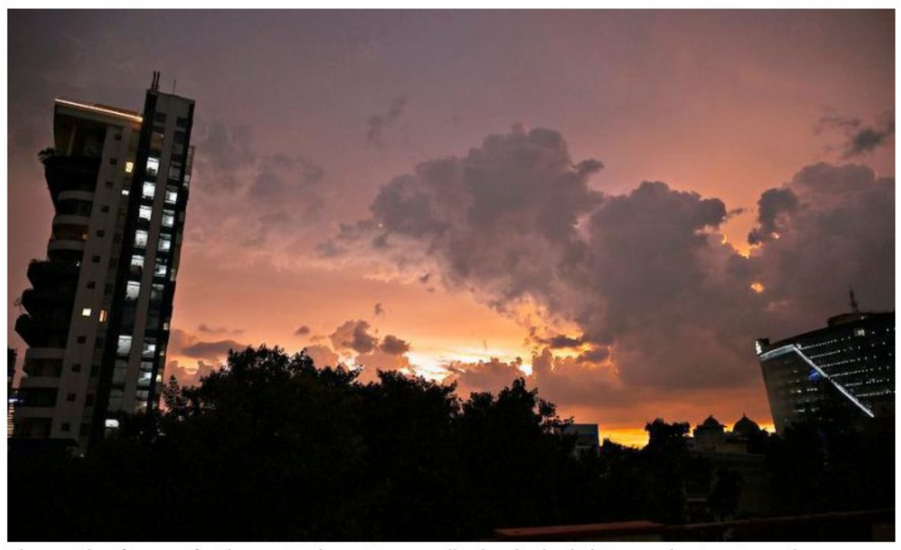
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A three-day South India's Wedding and Jewellery exhibition will be held from Friday at Shangri-La, Bengaluru, Palace Road, Vasanth Nagar between 10.30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

After a dry Sept., rains expected in next few days

Southwest monsoon cumulative rainfall between June 1 and Sept. 30 in State was 978 mm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The weather forecast for the next 48 hours is generally cloudy sky, light to moderate rain, and thunderstorms, according to IMD on Thursday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

After a dry September, Bengaluru is expected to receive light to moderate rainfall for the next few days. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, there would be light to moderate rainfall till October 7.

The weather forecast for the next 48 hours is generally cloudy sky, light to moderate rain, and thunderstorms are very likely to occur. The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 29°C and 20°C respectively.

C.S. Patil, a scientist at IMD, Bengaluru, said that while South Interior Karnataka from October 3 to October 9 is expected to receive widespread rainfall, during this period North Interior Karnataka is expected to receive rainfall in many places.

Yellow alert

"Many places in Bengaluru, Ramanagra, Mandya, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Tumakuru and Davangere districts are expected to receive heavy rainfall. October 4 to 5 and a yellow alert has been issued. Bengaluru from October 3 to October 7 is expected to receive light to moderate rainfall," Mr. Patil said.

As per the daily weather report issued on Thursday the southwest monsoon was active over South Interior Karnataka, normal over North Interior Karnataka and weak over Coastal Karnataka.

"Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior Karnataka, at a few places over North Interior Karnataka and at isolated places over Coastal Karnataka," it stated.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre's (KSNDMC) district-wise rainfall pattern data, during the southwest monsoon, cumulative rainfall between June 1 and September 30, Karnataka received 978 mm rainfall against the normal 852 mm rainfall with a departure of 15%. However, in Bengaluru Urban, while normal rainfall is 471 mm, it received 418 mm, a departure of minus 11%.

During this period South Interior Karnataka received 408 mm rainfall as against the normal 369 mm rainfall with a departure of 11%. North Interior Karnataka received 534 mm rainfall as against the normal 479 mm rainfall with a departure of 12%.

The Malnad region received 1755 mm rainfall as against 1556 mm rainfall with a departure of 13 %. The Coastal region received 3736 mm rainfall as against the normal 3101 mm rainfall with a departure of 20 %.

Deficiency in rainfall: Experts call for early contingency measures

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

As Bengaluru recorded an 11% deficiency in rainfall between June and September, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), fears over the availability of water to the city have risen. Experts say unless the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engages in early measures to save ground water, the next summer could be a repeat of this year. The BWSSB, however, says that it has successfully carried out rainwater harvesting in many pockets which would help protect water table.

Warning in summer

In summer 2024, the BWSSB issued orders banning usage of potable water for non-essential purposes and violations were dealt with hefty fines. The board also barred digging of borewells. This rule under the BWSSB Act applies all round the year, but was not being implemented.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said, "The demand for Cauvery water in Bengaluru is 45% and the rest are dependent on borewells. The board has implemented several water harvesting schemes to protect the water table. But the status of groundwater in summer will be known only then," he said.

Ramprasad, lake activist, said shortage in rain and poor implementation of rainwater harvesting could result in water stress for another summer. "The BWSSB has to start acting from November with the reintroduction of stringent norms. It should ban use of borewell or potable water for construction purposes. For construction, treated water should be made available. On the outskirts of Bengaluru also, this rule should be implemented as during the peak crisis, water is supplied by tankers from Anekal, Hoskote, Ramanagara, etc.," he said.

Measures needed

Water conservationist S. Vishwanath said three measures need to be taken: community involvement in rainwater harvesting, providing water connection to every household in 110 villages and filling up the lakes. Meanwhile, BWSSB is hoping that after implementing Cauvery Stage V - the piped water project to supply water to 110 villages - several houses will be covered, reducing the dependence on groundwater. But, BWSSB has so far connected 55,000 homes with the pipeline, while 3 lakh houses still have no water connection. The BWSSB says it is campaigning in the villages encouraging the citizens to avail connections paying the stipulated fee.

Power restored to pumping stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"The technical issue affecting transformers that supply power to Harohalli and T.K. Halli pumping stations, following rains and lightning strikes on Wednesday night, has been resolved and power restored," said Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB.

In a press release, Mr. Manohar said the power lines supplying electricity to these pumping stations were struck by lightning around 11 p.m., causing disruption in power supply to key stations responsible for providing water to Bengaluru. As a result, the pumping of water was halted.

KPTCL and BWSSB staff, working through the night under challenging weather conditions to conduct emergency repairs and fixed the issues, he added.

Environment awareness campaign conducted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, Christites for Climate Action (CCA), a student-led initiative from Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, on Wednesday, conducted an environment awareness campaign at Cubbon Park, promoting sustainability and climate action.

Seed packets

At the event, CCA members distributed over 500 seed packets besides engaging the public in discussions about sustainable practices in daily life and energy conservation.

Recruitment exam for PSI posts sees 64.5% attendance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The recruitment exam for 402 Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) posts was conducted smoothly on Thursday at 163 centres across six districts of the State.

A total of 66,990 candidates were eligible for the exam. Among them, 56,528 candidates downloaded their admit cards. Out of those, 43,250 (64.5%) appeared for the exam, as stated by Karnataka Examinations Authority's (KEA) Executive Director H. Prasanna in a press release.

The exam was held in Bengaluru, Vijayapura, Shivamogga, Kalaburagi, Dharwad, and Davanagere. It was conducted under tight security with surveillance through CCTV cameras. Jammers were installed at all centers. In Kalaburagi and Vijayapura, each exam room was equipped with individual jammers to ensure that no electronic devices, including mobile phones, were functional, he added.

Command centre

To monitor all 163 exam centres, a command centre was operational not only at the district level but also at the KEA office in Bengaluru.

Mr. Prasanna, along with Sharath Chandra, Additional Director General of Police for Recruitment Division, and DIG Sudheendra Kumar Reddy, monitored the exam arrangements from the centre.

Practical exam centres to be randomised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From the current academic year, 2024-25, II PU students appearing for practical examinations will be randomly allocated to practical examination centres similar to the written exam.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has decided to randomise the students for the II PUC practical exams and issued a circular in this regard.

"Students of a college that has a practical examination centre will not be allowed to write the practical exam in the same college. The Deputy Directors of the department (DDPUs) must identify and recommend the colleges which can be designated as practical examination centres," reads the circular.

However, this decision by the Board has irked the Karnataka State Pre University College Lecturers' Association. Raising objection, the association has submitted a petition to the Chairman of the KSEAB and requested that the decision is reverted.

"This decision by the board will cause inconvenience to students. In rural areas, the distance between colleges is not less than 20 km. Why should students be forced to travel that far during exams," questioned A.H. Ninge Gowda, President of the Association.

Lack of adequate transport facilities

The association also warned the Board that it will be held responsible if any student misses the exams due to transportation issues. "While taking such decisions, the authorities must consider the issues faced by students in rural colleges. There are villages where public transport is still a dream. In Malenad region, they get only one bus in the morning and another one in the evening. Such practical problems should be considered," he said.

The association also mentioned about students not being familiar with laboratory equipment in other colleges. "Instead of randomising, we urge the board to conduct practical exams under the surveillance of CCTV to ensure transparency at the same college," he suggested.

'NIMHANS should provide solutions for psychological well-being of astronauts in space'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil, ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and others during the NIMHANS convocation in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Institutions like the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) should provide solutions for the psychological well-being of astronauts in space," said S. Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

In his address at the 27th convocation of NIMHANS on Wednesday, he shared examples of psychological challenges faced by astronauts, referencing the recent United States (US) space mission, where the spacecraft was delayed far beyond their planned return.

"Imagine a spacecraft stuck in space for months. What kind of thoughts would go through the minds of the crew? How would they handle such extreme psychological pressures," he asked, suggesting that NIMHANS could play a pivotal role in addressing these issues and providing solutions for the psychological well-being of those in space.

Mr. Somanath also commented on the increasing stress faced by the current generation, attributing it partly to the technological advancements. "While we think that technological interventions make life easier, they often create equally stressful situations," he remarked. He called for focused research on managing stress and improving mental resilience, urging NIMHANS to lead the way in exploring and mitigating these challenges.

Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, stressed on the importance of mental health initiatives, particularly the National Tele Mental Health Program (Tele-MANAS), which has already received over 14 lakh calls and applauded Karnataka's leading role in the programme, with NIMHANS hosting one of two operational Tele-MANAS cells in the State, ensuring round-the-clock mental health support. He also shed light on the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI), aimed at improving access to neurological care across the State, with NIMHANS serving as the apex centre. He spoke about the success of the Urban Self-Harm Study (USHAS), a collaborative effort between NIMHANS and State government's Health Department that has provided counselling and life-saving interventions to over 7,000 individuals at risk of suicide or self-harm.

"When it comes to mental health, Karnataka is ahead of the curve. Several innovative programmes have been introduced, such as Taluk Mental Health Programme, Care at Doorstep initiative, Manochaitanya clinics, e-MANAS software, and the Karnataka Kishora Swvavalamban Program (KKSP). These initiatives, many of which were conceptualised here at NIMHANS, are being adopted by other states as well," he said.

At the convocation, 572 received degrees and certificates (471 in-person and 101 in absentia) on the successful completion of their academic programmes. Excellence awards and medals were also be presented to 39 meritorious students.

Pratima Murthy, Director of NIMHANS, presented the Institute report, highlighting significant developments in advancing patient care and enhancing academic and research initiatives.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, OCT. 04		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:07
RISE	07:09	SET 19:04
SATURDAY, OCT. 05		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:07
RISE	07:56	SET 19:41
SUNDAY, OCT. 06		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:06
RISE	08:45	SET 20:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GEETHA D, W/o A. John Bosco, age 55 years, R/at No. 10, Flat No. 103, 1st Floor, Golden Nest Apartment, Near LCR School, 1st Cross, Yeshwanthapura, Bangalore-560 022, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SANDRA BOSCO to GEETHA D, henceforth I shall be known and called as GEETHA D for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 3rd Oct. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary Smt. A. MANJULA at Bangalore.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

At the Oscars: A still from *Laapataa Ladies*. T-SERIES/YOUTUBE

Politics of aesthetics: how 'Laapataa Ladies' got a shot at the Oscars

The Academy Award for Best International Film is bestowed on the country and not an individual. As Kiran Rao's social satire represents India at the Academy Awards, let's peel the layers of the comedy of manners to figure out what it says and what it implies

Anuj Kumar

Towards the end of *Laapataa Ladies*, when Inspector Shyam Manohar foretells that Jaya, one of the two 'lost ladies', will go a long way, constable Dubey responds, "Indeed sir, she has to reach Dehradun." Since Kiran Rao's potent comedy of manners has been chosen as India's official entry to the Oscars this week, social media is abuzz with outrage from those who wanted to see Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* on the road to Los Angeles. Taking umbrage to the trite citation that describes Indian women as 'a strange mix of submission and dominance', many X-crusaders – like Dubey – choose only to go by the text.

In the annual din on the selection process for the Oscars, one thing that gets lost is that the Academy Award for Best International Film is bestowed on the country and not an individual. The natural follow-up question is what idea of India do we want our films to represent at the Oscars? This brings the government of the day and the politics of aesthetics into the mix.

On choosing a nominee

The Film Federation of India (FFI), which picks the representative feature out of a competitive pool through a jury, is the apex body of the film industry that works with the government to promote, support, and protect the interests of the film industry. Therefore, the sentiment that seeks safety over sensitivity remains ambient. Whether the deciding authority can process the winds of change, where a Malayalam film gets short-listed by France and *Santosh*, a multi-national collaborative Hindi crime drama set in rural north India becomes the U.K.'s shot at the Oscars, and appreciate the spirit of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* seeping into cinema, remains questionable. For now, it seems keen on saving the notion of sovereignty in cinema by leaning on what appears to be less adamant of the female voices that populated the list as *Kottukkaali, Ullozhukku,* and the National Award winner *Aattam* were also in the fray.

Read in context, the seemingly fossilised view expressed in the citation, that needed some serious proofreading, indicates the jury chose to reduce *Laapataa Ladies* to a story of two young girls, one happily desiring to be a homemaker and the other an entrepreneurially inclined rebel. When they get swapped during a train journey, the narrative allows a humorous exploration of identity and social constructs. A deeper reading suggests that the form and expression itself work like a safety pin to hold up the dissenting core of *Laapataa Ladies*.

If one deconstructs the structure of the social satire that turns the mainstream lost-and-found formula on its head, it feels like an onion, where the layers are the story but as long as you don't cut deep, tear ducts won't come into play. Lifting the veil on centuries of everyday patriarchy, it questions the practice of women covering their face among the majority community at a time when outside the theatres, power brokers are desperate to build a narrative around the hijab of Muslim women. Rao chooses to underline how patriarchy seeps through religious divides as a passing sequence captures a Muslim man talking of preserving identity while his wife's face is completely covered.

Abdul, the disabled beggar on the platform, is an observation of Muslims in the country, caught between persecution and persecution complex. Abdul is not what he looks like but that is his survival mechanism, not an insidious ploy.

Beyond mainstream politics

On the surface, the film is safely set in a fictitious place which feels like on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where a young Deepak has to get over his male ego to express his love for his wife Phool. One can feel how he pulls his entire weight to utter those simple three words in English.

The period is 2001 when Narendra Modi took over as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In the opening train sequence, a passenger is reading a Hindi newspaper with the headline of PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee visiting Bhuj implying the period of the devastating earthquake. Had it been 2002, another debilitating event for our democracy would have been on the cover. This is not the first time that co-producer Aamir Khan has steered clear of Gujarat riots, in recent times. His last film *Laal Singh Chaddha* conveniently erased the episode even when creative honesty demanded otherwise.

It is not that the star with a voice has fallen silent. Along with Kiran, he has found newer ways to subvert. An independent filmmaker and the government share a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law type relationship. In the film, when an ageing daughter-in-law asks her mother-in-law whether they could be friends, the older lady tells her to give it a try. The film offers a hand by promoting organic farming and *beti padhao, beti bachao* but also shines a light on darkness beneath the slogans.

Through Manju Mai, the tea stall owner in the film who serves feminism in a *kulhad*, the film tries to save us from a fraud sold to young women in the name of tradition. But in its universe, some of the cynicism of the feminist Manju melts away when the 'submissive' Phool enters her space with the recipe of sweet *kalakand*.

Phool doesn't wilt because she has been trained in making someone else's kitchen her own.

However, Manju is no lawyer or social worker – noble professions that are seen with suspicion these days. She is an entrepreneur who has been hardened by the vagaries of life. Manju and Phool don't just develop a covalent bond but an electrostatic attraction – where they give and take. Like Kiran and Ravi Kishan, the BJP lawmaker and socially aware actor cast to portray the malleable system in the film. Or like Aamir and Jio Studios.

According to reports. the media and content arm of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has garnered ₹700 crore at the box office in 2023-24. With 11 theatrical releases, 35 direct-to-digital releases, and eight original web series across languages and genres, the six-year-old company's output is bigger than any other film production company in the country. But, for now, they are just numbers. The Oscar nomination brings the credibility that the group seeks in the intangible space of culture. Its deep resources and network provide the small film the legs to last the expensive campaign to attract Academy voters and possibly explain the cultural nuances in storytelling.

After the *Lagaan* and *Taare Zameen Par's* experience, Aamir is wiser in making his investments. The audiences, meanwhile, are advised to take the message of the *Jagte Raho* call of the retired chaukidar of *Laapataa Ladies* seriously.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On October 1, Jimmy Carter became the first President of the United States to turn 100. How well do you know Carter and the events that he has lived through?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
In 2002, Jimmy Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize. According to the Nobel Committee, he ought to have received it earlier, in 1978. Why did it think so?

QUESTION 2
The end of Carter's presidency is often seen as a disastrous period in U.S. foreign policy. Among other events, U.S. diplomats and citizens were taken hostage in country X. The citizens of country X were furious that the U.S. had granted admission to a recently deposed leader for medical treatment and wanted him back to stand trial for alleged abuses. Name country X and the leader.

QUESTION 3
A few days ago, it was reported that the site of the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history, which took place during the Carter regime, will reopen by 2028 and sell power to a multinational company. What is the site called?

QUESTION 4
This village in Haryana was renamed on the instructions of Morarji Desai in 1978. As Carter's mother had visited a haveli in the village often, he too visited the village, along with his wife. What is this village called?

QUESTION 5
In 1978, Carter was warned by a politician that Ted Kennedy might run against him in 1980. Name the politician.

Visual question:
This is one of the weirdest monuments to a politician. This goofy statue is said to even have helped Carter win the election in Georgia 1976. Why does the statue show a peanut?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This historic event symbolically brought to an end the eastern bloc of Germany. **Ans: The fall of the Berlin Wall**
2. This particular movement in Germany, often included as one among the Revolutions of 1989, led to the downfall of the eastern German bloc. **Ans: Peaceful Revolution**
3. This agreement decided that Germany would be divided and ruled between the main allied powers post World War II. **Ans: The Potsdam Agreement**
4. The first person to use the term 'Iron Curtain' during the Cold War. **Ans: Winston Churchill**
5. This Chancellor of West Germany released a 10-point programme which called for the eventual reunification of the two Germanies. **Ans: Chancellor Helmut Kohl**
Visual: Identify this checkpoint. **Ans: Checkpoint Charlie**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| Tito Shiladitya| Abhyuday Singh Bhadauria| K.N. Viswanathan| Bharath Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"Surprise!"
"Hi!"
"Do I see tears of sorrow or tears of joy in your eyes?"
"Neither. I was cutting onions and..."
"How many times do I have to tell you, it's onions! The first syllable 'on' is not pronounced like the word 'on'. It's pronounced like the 'un' in words like 'bun' 'sun',..."
" 'Fun' and 'run'. I know that. But you see, a lot of people pronounce the first syllable like the word 'on'. So when I say the word, I automatically say 'on', instead of 'un'."
"Avoid making such a mistake."
"I'll try, but it's very difficult;"
"Nothing is difficult if you put your mind to it. Why were you cutting onions, anyway?"
"My mother needed it for the salad..."
"The what?"
"The salad. Oh, I'm sorry. The word is propounded 'salad', right? The first syllable 'sa' is pronounced like the 'sa' in words like 'sand', 'sad' and 'sat'."
"And in the second syllable..."
"The 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The stress is on the first syllable, 'sa', right?"
"Excellent."
"Thanks. By the way, what are you doing here?"
"No, my parents want to see the newly constructed theatre tomorrow, so..."
"You thought it would be a good idea if I came along with you. After all, I'm..."
"I didn't come here to invite you."
"You didn't?"
"No, I didn't. I came to see our mechanic. I wanted him to give our car the once-over before..."
"The 'once-over'? What does it mean?"
"When you give something the 'once-over', you look at or examine it very quickly. The principal, gave the plans the once-over before approving them. 'Once-over' can be used with people."
"Did the mechanic give your car the once-over?"
"Yes, he certainly did. Hey, what's the wonderful smell?"
"Must be the cake in the oven."
"You mean oven. The 'o' does not sound like 'oh'. It's pronounced like the 'u' in 'gun', 'bun' and 'nun'. It is pronounced like the 'o' in 'onion'."
"So its oven, with the stress on the first syllable."
"Could I have a piece of that cake?"
"Certainly not!"
"There's no point in asking you. I'll ask your mother."
"She's not here. She's gone to buy ice cream. You see, we're having guests tonight. And we'll have cake and ice-cream for desert."
"Which desert? The Gobi or the Sahara? Ha! Ha!"
"What's so funny?"
"The word you're looking for is not 'desert', but 'dessert'. The stress is on the second syllable 'sert'. The 's' is pronounced like the 'z' in 'zip', 'zoo' and 'zebra' and the 'ert' sounds like the 'urt' in words like 'hurt' and 'curt'. The first syllable 'de' is like the 'di' in 'dip', 'ditch' and 'dish'.
Published in The Hindu on August 3, 1993.

Word of the day

Gavage:

Feeding that consists of the delivery of a nutrient solution (as through a nasal tube) to someone who cannot or will not eat

Synonym: forced feeding

Usage: *Two of the main compounds were administered by oral gavage.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/gavagepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gəˈvɑːʒ/, /gæˈvɑːʒ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

FIR against HDK, former JD(S) MLC for allegedly demanding ₹50 crore from city realtor

Ex-MLC Ramesh Gowda files a counter-complaint refuting the allegations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Amruthahalli police on Thursday registered a First Information Report against Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy and former JD(S) MLC H.M. Ramesh Gowda for allegedly demanding ₹50 crore from a Bengaluru-based realtor and threatening him with dire consequences if he failed to pay.

Based on a complaint filed by Vijay Tata, a resident of Dasarahalli, the police named Mr. Ramesh Gowda as the prime accused and Mr. Kumaraswamy as the second accused, charging them under sections 308 (2) (extortion) and 351 (2) (criminal intimidation).

H.D. Kumaraswamy

'Not with party'
According to Mr. Tata, 58, he had been with the JD(S) since 2018 and was put in charge of social media campaigns for the Mandya constituency during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He claimed to have spent "crores of rupees" from his personal funds and said he was appointed vice-president of the party's social media wing by former Prime Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda at his Padmanabhanagar residence in the presence of Mr. Kumaraswamy.

However, the JD(S), in an official statement, clarified that Mr. Tata was neither associated with the party nor with its social media wing.

Mr. Tata alleged that on August 24, Mr. Ramesh Gowda visited his house and spoke about the Channapatna by-elections. During the conversation, Mr. Ramesh Gowda allegedly told him that the party had decided to give the ticket to Mr. Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil, and sought his participation in party activities.

Further, Mr. Tata alleged that Mr. Ramesh Gowda called Mr. Kumaraswamy over the phone, and the Union Minister also allegedly demanded ₹50 crore towards the Channapatna byelection expenses. When Mr. Tata told Mr. Kumaraswamy that he didn't have such a large amount, the Union Minister allegedly threatened him, stating that it would be difficult for him to run his real-estate business and live in the city.

Mr. Tata alleged that Mr. Ramesh Gowda sent him WhatsApp messages on August 30, September 6, and September 11 with financial demands.

Counter-complaint
Hours after the FIR was filed, Mr. Ramesh Gowda filed a counter-complaint with the Amruthahalli police, denying the allegations. He said he made no phone calls to Mr. Kumaraswamy as alleged by Mr. Tata.

He said while he did meet Mr. Tata for dinner at his house on his invitation on August 24, it was the latter who sought ₹100 crore as he was "stuck in his real-estate business".

Women garment workers face low wages, violence at work, finds report

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Wages as low as ₹10,000 a month, verbal and physical abuse, restrictions on toilet time are some of the conditions women labourers in Karnataka's readymade garment factory face, said a new report by Cividep India.

While poor working conditions of women garment factory workers have been documented in earlier reports, what the latest report also highlights is the connection between paid factory work and unpaid household labour, its impact on women's vulnerability, and how it perpetuates marginalisation in future generations.

The report surveyed 184 women garment workers in Bengaluru and Mysuru and found that the minimum wage in the sector is ₹10,330. This is lower than what is paid to skilled and unskilled workers in other sectors. FILE PHOTO

Lowest wages
Authored by Supriya Roy Chowdhury, visiting professor at NIAS, the report, which surveyed 184 women garment workers in Bengaluru and Mysuru, found that the minimum wage in the sector is ₹10,330. This is lower than what is paid to skilled and unskilled workers in other sectors.

Around 82% of the women did overtime, however only 58% were paid double wages for it. Most respondents wanted better wages, while around 25% of them demanded better working conditions. A significant number were also found to be engaged in additional paid work such as tailoring, selling flowers, domestic help and so on, according to the study brought out by the Bengaluru-based NGO.

Verbal and sexual abuse
One of the most appalling findings of the study was the pervasive nature of abuse in the sector and how it was normalised. All the respondents reported experiencing verbal abuse from the managers.

Around 61% of them faced physical abuse, while 39% reported sexual harassment. Yet another finding was around the restrictions on toilet time. Women were either restricted from using the toilet as many times as they needed or were limited from using the facility over a certain duration.

Around 68% of women experienced this. The study also revealed that only 5-10% of the women labourers are unionised.

Weak regulation of global supply chains in garment production and exports has played a major role in the poor working conditions of the female workforce, says the study.

"The State's regulatory systems, inspection of factory systems, etc., are hardly functional in the garment sector," noted Dr. Chowdhury at the release of the report in Bengaluru.

This results in the creation of a low-wage, low-skilled, migrant workforce from historically marginalised tribes and communities. The study documented extreme physical and mental exhaustion among the women workers who are forced to take up housework on top of the factory work. A women labourer on an average works for about 16 hours a day.

"In this struggle they are not supported by the State or the capital. In a sense, it's a solo struggle," Dr. Chowdhury said.

Perpetuating marginalisation
She further recollected how during the survey the women hoped that their children would become IT employees and wouldn't have to work in the factory. However, the inability of the State to provide a robust public education system acts as a hindrance, she pointed out.

It was found out that children of most workers drop out from schools. Around 60% of these children work in services, 17% in construction and 10% in agriculture, their earnings ranging between ₹10,000 to 15,000

'State is complicit'
"The State is complicit in the production of a disempowered female workforce... In a sense, the State is standing between capital and worker, and while providing work to the workforce, the kind of work being provided is hugely disadvantageous to the workforce," Ms. Chowdhury stressed.

From Page One

Three more Pakistani nationals held

The family reportedly came to the city from Pakistan via the Bangladesh border.

Rashid Ali was living with his family in Rajapura and operated an eatery while engaging in preaching activities assigned to him by his handler. The accused was part of the Pakistan-based Mehdi Foundation and had been instructed to spread messages of their religious leader while receiving funds, said the police. The police suspect that more individuals connected to this network may be present in and around Bengaluru, and investigations are on to track them down. Four special teams have been set up and they are working on different angles of the case, said a senior police officer. Rashid Ali reportedly entered India using a fake passport and has been residing near Jigani since 2018. He moved to Bengaluru on the instructions of preacher Younus Algohar.

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Powai, Mumbai 400076, India

UCEED 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications are invited for Undergraduate Common Entrance Exam for Design (UCEED) for admission to B.Des at IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Roorkee and IIITDM Jabalpur.

Eligibility:
Class XII (or equivalent) students who passed in 2024 or appearing in 2025 (refer to the UCEED 2025 Information Brochure for details).

Course : B.Des Duration : 4 Years

Online Registration
Oct. 1 - Oct. 31, 2024

Examination
Jan. 19, 2025 (Sunday)
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

For more information

Website
www.uceed.iitb.ac.in

CEED 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications are invited for Common Entrance Exam for Design (CEED) for M.Des at IISc Bangalore, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Jodhpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, IIITDM Jabalpur and IIITDM Kancheepuram; and for PhD at several IITs and Design schools.

Eligibility:
Candidates who have completed a degree or diploma program of minimum THREE years (after 10+2 level) or appearing for the final examination of such a program by July 2025 or have passed the GD Arts diploma program (10+5 level) by July 2025 (refer to the CEED 2025 Information Brochure for details).

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Autorickshaw fare structure in major Indian cities

	Bengaluru	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai	Hyderabad
Approximate number of autorickshaws	1.9 lakh	1 lakh	2.55 lakh	85,000	1.1 lakh
Govt.-fixed minimum fare	₹30 for the first 2 km, revised in 2021	₹30 for the first 1.5 km, revised two years ago	₹23 for the first 1 km, revised in 2022	₹25 for the first 1.8 km, revised in September 2023	₹20 and for every subsequent km, ₹.9 to ₹11. Revised in 2014
Fare collection	Fare meters are mandatory, but some drivers negotiate fares with passengers. Aggregator-based autos are popular	Though all autos have meters, some drivers opt to negotiate fares with passengers. Around 10,000 autos are affiliated with multiple ride-hailing platforms	Fares are regulated by the govt.-fixed tariff system	Many drivers refuse to follow the government-fixed tariff system	Drivers negotiate the fares with passengers. Unions want fares revised to ₹40 and ₹25 per km

Fare-revision demand: Autorickshaw unions have been demanding that the government revise the fares. Currently, the minimum fare in Bengaluru is ₹30 for the first two kilometres, followed by ₹15 for each additional kilometre. K. MURALI KUMAR

What is a fair fare?

Bengaluru has seen a surge in complaints to the traffic police against autorickshaw drivers, mainly regarding erratic fare demands. However, drivers say tell **Darshan Devaiah B.P.** that their earnings are not keeping pace with soaring inflation, regardless of whether they opt for metered rides or register with aggregators. The last fare revision in Bengaluru was three years ago, while the aggregator commissions remain steep

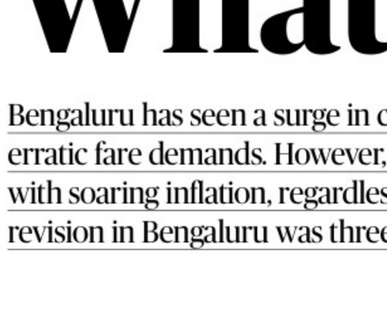
It's becoming impossible to make ends meet. The last fare revision was three years ago, and since then, everything has become more expensive – fuel, spare parts, and my basic living expenses. But our fares? Still the same!" laments Shashidhar K., an autorickshaw driver from Hulimavu in south Bengaluru. Frustration is palpable in his voice as he describes the ever-increasing financial strain.

"We have no choice but to stop using the meters and set our fares or rely on aggregator apps. Although these apps charge us a hefty commission, at least the fares we get are better compared to the standard meter rates," he adds.

This sentiment is echoed by thousands of autorickshaw drivers across Bengaluru, who are urging the State government to increase the minimum fare, which was last revised on December 20, 2021.

The demand for fare revisions

The Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU) has been vocal about the need for a fare revision. T.M. Rudramurthy, a representative of ARDU, explained, "The fare revision in 2021 came after a long gap of eight years. Given the rate of inflation, we cannot wait another decade. The current fare structure simply doesn't reflect the reality of our expenses."



Currently, the minimum fare in Bengaluru is ₹30 for the first two kilometres, followed by ₹15 for each additional kilometre. Drivers say this is no longer enough to cover the costs of operating their vehicles, particularly when traffic congestion limits them to an average of only 70 kilometres per day, reducing the number of trips they can make. "Between the fuel prices, rising maintenance and spare part costs, insurance, and long hours on the road, we are barely getting by," adds another driver, Vinod Kumar from Kamakshipalya, who has been driving in the city for over a decade.

While drivers often face criticism for charging according to their own whims, they complain of a significant decline in their real earnings when adjusted for inflation.

The Adarsh Auto Union has proposed increasing the fare to ₹40 for the first two kilometres and ₹20 for each additional kilometre. L. Manjuntha, a member of the union, explains, "The current CNG price is ₹83 per kg, compared to around ₹50 to ₹60 in 2021. However, rates have not been adjusted to compensate for the increase in fuel costs. In Bengaluru, nearly all autos run on CNG, though electric ones are becoming more common. While e-autos don't have high fuel costs, they are much more expensive to purchase, costing between ₹4.70 to ₹5 lakh compared to ₹2.35 lakhs for a CNG auto."

> We are losing a significant chunk of our earnings to the app-based auto aggregator companies, but we have no choice. If we don't sign up with them, we lose out on business.
>
> **SURESHA H.A.,** auto driver

Auto drivers are demanding that the government amend the laws that govern fare revisions. Section 67(i) of the Motor Vehicles Act requires fares to be fixed "from time to time," but the lack of clarity around the frequency of these revisions has left drivers at a disadvantage. The ARDU has urged the government to revise fares annually by linking them to the wholesale price index to ensure that fares keep pace with inflation.

Meanwhile, most drivers have resorted to alternative strategies to make up for their stagnant incomes, including not using meters and charging passengers based on their discretion. This has led to growing tension between drivers and passengers, with many commuters feeling they are being unfairly overcharged.

Ritu S., who travels frequently from Kengeri, said, "I understand the drivers' challenges, but it's hard to know if the fare is fair anymore, especially when meters are rarely used. It has become normal for drivers not to use meters."

Increasing complaints

It has become increasingly common for people to complain about drivers demanding extra money. The Bengaluru Traffic Police reportedly receive 20 to 25 calls daily on their hotline related to autorickshaw grievances.

As of July 31, 2024, the BTP had registered 2,586 complaints against drivers for refusing to take passengers and 2,582 for overcharging. These figures surpass the total number of such cases booked in 2022 and 2023. In 2022, the traffic police recorded 2,183 cases for refusal of hire and 2,179 for demanding excess fare, while in 2023, they booked 1,537 and 1,599 cases, respectively.

BTP officials attribute the rise in cases in 2024 to frequent enforcement drives targeting auto drivers. Joint Commissioner (Traffic) M.N. Anucheth said, "Every day, we conduct special drives, most of which this year have focused on drivers due to numerous public complaints. We deploy decoys who request rides, and if drivers refuse or demand extra fare, we immediately book a case."

He also noted an increase in public reporting of such incidents. While not all reports result in formal complaints, citizens often provide the registration numbers of the offending autorickshaws, and the police take appropriate action.

The rise of auto aggregators

Many passengers have turned to app-based aggregators for convenience. These platforms promise transparent pricing and easier access to autos, yet they present their own set of challenges for both passengers and drivers.

One of the key issues drivers face is the commission taken by these aggregator platforms, which can range from 20% to 30% of each fare. "We are losing a significant chunk of our earnings to the companies, but we have no choice. If we don't sign up with them, we lose out on business," explains Suresha H.A., who uses multiple platforms. He added that while aggregators provide more consistent rides, the high commission rates make it difficult to earn a profit consistently.

For passengers, app-based autos are a mixed blessing. While they offer the convenience of booking through an app and avoiding haggling over fares, the overall cost can be much higher than taking a traditional metered auto. "I used to prefer app-based autos because it was easier, but now I feel I am paying more than I should," says Deepa K., a resident of Indiranagar.

Madhuri Rao, a tech professional from Sanjaynagar, feels aggregators offer a better experience compared to autos with meters. She appreciates the convenience of doorstep pickup and the added safety features, as the driver's details are available on the phone, allowing her family to track her location. In contrast, while meter autos may be cheaper, getting one can be a hassle. "You have to stand by the road, asking multiple drivers if they will take you. After several rejections, and sometimes paying 'one and a half', you might find one willing to go," she says.

However, Madhuri also points out the downsides of aggregator apps. "Though they are convenient, there's no control over the fares, especially surge pricing. The government should step in to regulate these platforms and ensure they don't overcharge passengers," she adds.

What experts feel

Traffic experts agree that more frequent fare revisions could help mitigate many of the issues faced by drivers and passengers. M.N. Sreehari, a traffic expert, says, "Regular fare revisions could help reduce the widespread issue of drivers refusing rides. Many commuters complain about drivers not using the meter. Annual fare revisions would likely decrease complaints related to overcharging and refusal of rides."

In addition to fare revisions, experts suggest more stringent enforcement of regulations to help alleviate the problem of drivers refusing to use meters. "The government needs to ensure that there are stricter penalties for drivers who don't use the meter or who overcharge passengers. They should also regulate the auto and cab aggregators," Sreehari added.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said while the government has not yet received any formal communication from ARDU or other auto unions regarding their demand for a fare revision, he is open to considering the issue. "Annual fare revisions may not be feasible, but we could look into revising fares every two or three years. We will review any letters or complaints received from auto drivers and consult with the Tansport Department," he said.

A look at other cities

Compared to Bengaluru, other major cities in India have varied approaches to autorickshaw fare regulation. In Delhi, where approximately 1 lakh autos operate, the government last revised fares two years ago, setting them at ₹30 for the first 1.5 km, with many drivers negotiating fares instead of using meters.

Mumbai regulates its vast fleet of 2.55 lakh autos strictly, with a minimum fare of ₹23 for the first kilometre and ₹15 thereafter, with higher tariffs at night. This regulated system contrasts with Bengaluru's sporadic system. Hyderabad, with over 1.1 lakh autos, has not updated its fare structure in a decade, compelling drivers to negotiate rates, presenting a situation worse than in Bengaluru. Chennai recently revised its fares to ₹25 for 1.8 km and ₹12 for each additional kilometre in 2023, but complaints persist about drivers not adhering to official rates. In Bengaluru, the minimum fare of ₹30 for the first 2 km is similar to that of Delhi, but regular fare revisions are a common demand in both cities. Meanwhile, app-based aggregator platforms have complicated fare structures in all these cities, with Bengaluru drivers also relying on them despite the high commission charges.

(With additional inputs from Alisha Dutta in New Delhi, Snehal Mutha from Mumbai, Srikanth R. from Chennai, and Syed Mohammed from Hyderabad.)

Mixed blessing: While app-based aggregators offer the convenience of booking through an app and avoiding haggling over fares, the overall cost can be higher than taking a traditional metered auto. K. MURALI KUMAR

Call for celebration

Bengaluru's Ranga Shankara is observing two decades of theatre excellence with a month-long festival

Yemen S
yemen.s@thehindu.co.in

For fans of Shankar Nag and Kannada cinema, November holds special significance as the month of their beloved "Auto Raja" Shankar's most iconic role. Each year, admirers across the State celebrate his birth anniversary on November 9, with festivities coinciding with Kannada Rajyotsava. For theatre enthusiasts, October and November mark a key cultural event: the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival (RSTF). Held at Ranga Shankara in JP Nagar, this beloved theatre space was built in memory of Shankar Nag by his wife, acclaimed actor Arundhati Nag.

As Ranga Shankara observes its 20th anniversary this year, the organisers are gearing up for a month-long celebration, from October 10 to November 10,featuring 20 plays over 20 days. This event reflects two decades of commitment to nurturing contemporary theatre in India, showcasing performances in multiple languages, including Kannada, Hindi, English, Marathi, Tamil, Bengali, Assamese, Sanskrit, Lepcha, and more.

Down memory lane

Since its inception in 2004, Ranga Shankara has emerged as a cultural beacon in India's theatre scene, with 7,500 shows across 36 languages and an audience of 1.2 million. The brainchild of Arundhati, the venue has become a hub for artistes and theatre enthusiasts alike, offering an affordable platform for local, national, and international talent.

Back in 2004, Ranga Shankara opened with a 45-day long festival. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Arundhati explains how different the first festival was. "Back then, we had no idea what we were doing. It was a 45-day festival and we were still painting the walls, checking the toilets and the air conditioning and more. We were not even sure if we could accommodate 320 people in one sitting," she recalls.

"I must credit so many people who made the first and almost every other festival possible – Suri (S Surendranath, theatre maker and trustee at Ranga Shankara), my friend Gayathri, our auditor Ranga Rao, the legendary MS Sathyu, Girish Karnad and many others have been the pillars of Ranga Shankara."

"We had Bombay-based theatre maker Atul Kumar, who moved to Bengaluru and planned the entire festival with us over six months. Money was not a concern as we had sponsors; few theatres, built by middle-class people like us, could have had such a big opening. Now in 2024, the festival is not too different; of course money has not been easy to get, but putting the event together has always been fun," she adds.

Arundhati says that though all the festivals over the last two decades had a theme, this year they decided to simply celebrate the fact that Ranga Shankara and theatre "have been wedded to each other for twenty years."

Stage lights Stills from *Hayavadana* (left) and *The Far Post*, Arundhati Nag (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anticipate theatrical brilliance

The festival promises to be a dynamic celebration of theatre with a lineup of seven encore performances of audience favorites that have graced the Ranga Shankara stage before.

These include renowned Kannada productions such as *Mukhyamantri* by Kalagangotri, *Hayavadana* by Benaka and *Karimayi* by Spandana – all troupes celebrating over 40-50 years of continuous performances. Modern classics such as *Taking Sides* by The Company Theatre and *Kaumudi* by D for Drama will also return to captivate audiences.

Ranga Shankara has commissioned three new productions for the festival and have paired three skilled directors – Chidambara Rao Jambe with VASP Theatre, Lakshman KP with Samudaya, and Devendra Raj Ankur with Kahe Vidushak – to work with these theatre houses. The festival will showcase works of Alyque Padamsee, Manav Kaul, Ravindra Khare, Shabana Azmi, Ratna Pathak Shah, and Naseeruddin Shah, among others.

The festival will also feature productions from across India such as *The Far Post* in Lepcha, *Raghunath*, a META 2023 Award winner in Assamese, *Atho Hidimba Katha* in Bengali, and *Sangeet Maanapamaan* in Marathi.

Beyond the stage

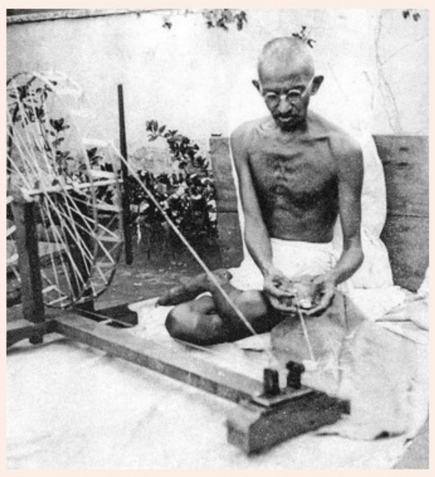
RSTF, with the Bangalore Theatre Collective as its executive producer, will extend beyond traditional performances, offering workshops, seminars, and ancillary events to engage with the community.

Two in-depth seminars will explore the evolution of Kannada theatre and Indian urban theatre, featuring renowned panellists KY Narayana Swamy, Lakshmi Chandrashekar and Abhishek Majumdar.

The Shankar Nag Award winners, all prominent under-40 theatre artistes, will lead discussions on the changing face of urban theatre in India. Platform performances curated by five Bengaluru-based theatre groups Dramarsis, WeMove, Illuminating Windows, Bangalore Little Theatre and Sanchaya, will take place in the foyer, highlighting the vibrant local theatre scene.

Workshops led by prominent theatre personalities will focus on bringing creativity to daily life and are open to homemakers, teachers, and senior citizens.

Details of the festival are on the Ranga Shankara website and social media. Tickets for the shows are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on BookMyShow.



Satyagraha and architecture

Satyagraha, often linked with Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance, will be examined through the lens of humane architecture – a practice that requires an understanding of what it means to be human before becoming an architect.

Prem Chandavarkar, managing partner of CnT Architects and a noted scholar, will lead a discourse on this topic. Satyagraha is usually equated with the political strategy of non-violent civil resistance that Gandhi championed to gain India's freedom from British colonialism. But, according to the speaker, it has a far deeper meaning, and is a moral code for life that, in turn, informs politics and many other human endeavours.

Prem's talk will delve into how design connects the autonomy of the architect with the essence of everyday life, suggesting that the moral framework of satyagraha can influence not only politics but also human-centric architectural practices.

Anne Feenstra, former Dean of Architecture at CEPT University and a laureate of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture, will join the discussion. Known for his work in pro-ecology and community-driven projects, Anne will offer insights into how these values align with the Gandhian ideal.

This event promises to bridge philosophy and architecture, offering fresh perspectives on design as a humane practice.

The talk will take place on October 5, from 6.30pm-8pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry is free, but attendees must RSVP in advance, with seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cracking the film code

Engineer-turned-director Sourabh Shukla's award-winning Kannada indie film *1888* explores the impact of demonetisation

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

According to Sourabh Shukla's bio, he is "a self-taught filmmaker who made a drastic shift in his career from being an engineer at an MNC to pursuing his passion for filmmaking." However, given the number of engineers-turned-filmmakers in this part of the country, studying engineering seems to be a prerequisite for a filmmaker. So, hardly "a drastic shift."

Sourabh, who has been teaching himself filmmaking for almost two decades, has received recognition at film festivals (Best Director Award at the Onyko Film Awards 2023 in Ukraine; the Outstanding Achievement Award for Best Debut Filmmaker at the World Film Carnival 2023 in Singapore; and more) for his Kannada feature *1888*, a vindication of his efforts.

The 115-minute film, set during India's 2016 demonetisation period, is a gripping thriller that follows a trio of characters caught in a high-stakes chase for a bag of cash.

The plot revolves around a former actress-turned-politician, an LIC agent, and an anonymous individual, each with their own reasons for seeking the cash.

The cast includes Neethu Shetty, who had previously appeared in *Photograph* opposite Mohanlal and in *Gaalipata* alongside Ganesh and Ananth Nag.

Starry-eyed Sourabh Shukla (right), a still from *1888*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We started working on the film in 2017, shortly after demonetisation and conducted extensive research, including interviews with undercover cops and IB agents," says Sourabh, "The entire process took around four to five years, including editing, festival submissions, and marketing efforts."

Amazon Prime and Apple TV recently picked up *1888*. It is also available for streaming on pay-per-view services such as Movie Saints and the free streaming platform VDOJar.

Sourabh has mixed emotions regarding the film's journey. "When we made the film, our intention wasn't to create a typical art-house movie. We wanted to experiment within the mainstream framework and release it theatrically," he says. However, due to the pandemic and declining theatre attendance, he and his team decided to send it to festivals. They had hoped the film's critical success would lead to a deal with a major OTT platform, but that did not materialise.

"OTT platforms consider language, star cast, marketing, and genre," he explains, "As an independent filmmaker, I hadn't anticipated these challenges. I learned there are many other factors to consider when making a film, especially in today's market," he says.

Despite these hurdles, he remains passionate about filmmaking and finds it rewarding. However, filmmaking has undergone significant changes, especially in the post-COVID era. The rise of streaming platforms and social media has transformed how people consume content. Attention spans have shortened, and an overwhelming abundance of short content, such as Reels and Shorts, is available.

"These changes have raised questions about the future of feature films. Are people still interested in watching longer films? I wonder if people will come to the theatres to watch *Ben-Hur* if it is released today. How can we create films that resonate with today's audiences?" he asks, on behalf of indie filmmakers who grapple with their uncertain futures.

STEPOUT

Dance the body music

Get ready for the Disco Dandiya Utsav Celebrations at Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway. You can not only dance through the night to the beats and music by Swaradi Live and DJs Suprava Sarkar, Shad India and Beat Gurus, but can also dig into a vast range of festive dishes. The other crowdpuller will be the LED liquid drumming with the Energie Dance Crew.

Tickets on BookMyShow. At Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway, October 5, 4pm onwards.

Festive delights

This Navratri menu will be available till October 13 and offers you a vast vegetarian spread, adhering to traditional fasting guidelines. Specially prepared dishes without onion and garlic, include delicacies such as palak corn kofta curry, aloo kale chane rasedar, Navratri subzi korma, khichdi and more. For dessert, you can give into your sweet tooth with chironji aur makhane ki kheer and malpua with rabdi, which will be served with vanilla ice cream.

At Salt the Indian Restaurant. Visit saltrestaurants.in/ for details.

Don't try to dislodge elected govts., writer advises politicians at Dasara inauguration

Hampa Nagarajaiah, who threw open the 10-day festivities in Mysuru in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, makes an oblique reference to the political situation in the State and says frequent elections are a burden on common people

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Noted writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah, who inaugurated the Dasara festivities on Thursday atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru, advised politicians against attempting to dislodge elected governments.

"I pray to Goddess Chamundeshwari to save people from thoughts of toppling elected governments and to safeguard democratically elected governments. It is easy to demolish but tough to build anything. Frequent elections (in case a government falls) are a burden on the common people," he observed, obliquely referring to the recent political developments in Karnataka and constant verbal duels among leaders from the ruling and Opposition parties.

Traditional start: Writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inaugurating the Dasara festivities atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru on Thursday. M.A. SRIRAM

He further said that it was not possible for any one particular party to remain in power forever. "The defeated party needs five years to come back to power, winning over the hearts of the people," the writer said.

Mr. Nagarajaiah also said he had prayed to the goddess to put an end to the ongoing war in West Asia and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as the hostilities were causing the death of hundreds of innocent people. Terming unemployment a national issue, the writer said it needs to be addressed on priority as the youth are crestfallen over not getting jobs. The Centre must take steps to address the matter, he pleaded.

Unemployment is a national issue and it needs to be addressed on priority as the youth are crestfallen over not getting jobs, says Hampana

Mr. Nagarajaiah, in his inaugural address, said Dasara is a "people's festival" and its inauguration by the commoners confirms the thinking that people are supreme in a democracy, and it also upholds the pro-people belief. "I have inaugurated the sacred festival on behalf of the people with utmost humility," he said.

Celebrated by all

While some festivals are confined to particular religions, Dasara is celebrated by everyone. If some festivals are limited to one or two days, Dasara is celebrated for 10 days with the Mysuru kings observing the festivities with devotion and the tradition has continued, he explained.

Mr. Nagarajaiah inaugurated the 10-day 'Nada Habba' in a traditional way by lighting a lamp and showering flowers on the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari placed in a flower-bedecked silver chariot on the Chamundeshwari temple premises.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and their Cabinet colleagues H.C. Mahadevappa, K. Venkatesh, K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil and Shivaraj Tangadagi, MLAs G.T. Deve Gowda and Tanveer Sait were among those who participated in the inaugural event.

Later, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Mr. Nagarajaiah's emphasis on strengthening democracy was timely and appreciated the writer's speech where he disapproved of efforts to overthrow elected governments through undemocratic means, calling them "anti-democratic actions".

Mr. Siddaramaiah praised Mr. Nagarajaiah for his contributions to Kannada literature and called him an outstanding writer. "His selection for the inauguration of Dasara was fitting and well-deserved," he said.

GTD dares all leaders with FIRs against them to quit

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

> Though the Governor and the court have ordered an investigation [against CM], there is no law that states that a person under investigation has to resign, or go to jail
>
> **G.T. DEVE GOWDA,** Senior JD(S) leader

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has been stonewalling demands for his resignation following the registration of an FIR against him in the alleged MUDA scam, received support from unexpected quarters during Dasara celebrations in Mysuru.

Senior JD(S) leader and Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Deve Gowda, who heads the party's core committee, came to Mr. Siddaramaiah's defence at the inaugural function of Dasara atop Chamundi Hills.

Reacting to demands for Mr. Siddaramaiah's resignation, Mr. Gowda dared all the politicians facing FIRs to submit their resignations "if they have the guts".

'Will HDK quit?'

"If one has to resign after an FIR is registered against them, many, including Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and leaders in the JD(S) and the Congress, will have to resign," Mr. Gowda said before asking if Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy would quit if a demand for his resignation was raised.

"Though the Governor and the court have ordered an investigation, there is no law that states that a person under investigation has to resign, or go to jail."

Mr. Gowda called on leaders of the State and the Centre to focus on development works rather than seeking Mr. Siddaramaiah's resignation.

"How can Mr. Siddaramaiah, who led the Congress to power with the victory of 136 MLAs from the party, quit when neither the court nor the Governor had asked for his resignation?" Mr. Gowda asked all the persons demanding the Chief Minister's resignation to go by the orders of the court in this regard.

Mr. Gowda trained his guns on the television media for focusing on a particular rape, murder case or an FIR continuously for three months. He called upon the media to instead portray ideals to develop good leadership among the youth.

'Speaking truth'

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who addressed the gathering later, said he had received strength from the words of Mr. Gowda. Pointing out that Mr. Gowda was also a member of the MUDA, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "He knows what is the truth. Despite being in another party, he has made an effort to speak the truth."

Reiterating that he had done no wrong, he said it had been 40 years since he became a Minister for the first time in August 1984. "It would not have been possible for me to continue in politics for such a long time had I ever been involved in wrong-doing."

Film city will be ready in three years: CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced here on Thursday that the long-awaited film city in Mysuru would be established in three years.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Dasara Film Festival at the convocation hall of the Karnataka State Open University.

Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled that he had sanctioned the film city project for Mysuru in his first term as Chief Minister and 110 acres of land had been earmarked at Immavu (near Nanjangud). In addition to this, 50 acres had also been earmarked for expansion of the facility, he added. He said the film city would be developed under the PPP model and tenders invited for it in due course.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurating the Dasara Film Festival in Mysuru, being held in honour of the late actor Dwarakish, on Thursday. M.A. SRIRAM

The long-awaited project will come up at Immavu near Nanjangud in Mysuru district

Film city for Mysuru is a long-pending project as it was first announced in the State Budget almost 10 years ago after which the government flip-flopped with regard to its location and Bengaluru was mooted to be suitable. But subsequently, Mysuru was finalised and the project is expected to give a boost to film tourism as also employment generation.

The Chief Minister also paid tributes to the late actor-director-producer Dwarakish for his contributions to the growth of the Kannada film industry. "I had a good rapport with the actor and had travelled in the same helicopter with him," recalled Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Dwarakish passed away in April this year and the film festival, being held in his honour, will also feature programmes commemorating him.

Dinesh Gundu Rao faces Shiv Sena ire over remarks on Savarkar

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Karnataka Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Thursday faced the ire of the Shiv Sena over his recent remarks on V.D. Savarkar, with the party demanding an apology and threatening to ban him from Maharashtra.

"If Dinesh Gundu Rao does not apologise for his disrespectful statement about Savarkar within 24 hours, the Shiv Sena will ensure that he is not allowed to set foot in Maharashtra," said Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske. At an event in Bengaluru on Gandhi Jayanti, Mr. Rao had sparked a controversy by saying that despite being a Brahmin, Savarkar not just ate beef but also did not oppose cow slaughter and was a modernist on that topic.

Mr. Mhaske accused former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray of being afraid of the Congress in view of his silence over the matter. "Those who tolerate insults to Savarkar have no right to display Balasaheb Thackeray's photograph," he said at a press conference.

When asked about Mr. Rao's comments, Shiv Sena UBT leader Aaditya Thackeray said it was better to see the exhaustive work done by the great leaders, instead of creating needless controversies.

Govt. caps number of visitors to trekking sites at 300 a day; ticket booking portal launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In order to avoid overcrowding at the trekking sites across the State, the government has decided to put a cap on the number of trekkers visiting these places.

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Thursday, while launching the online ticket booking portal for trekking sites, said the State had immense potential for eco-tourism, but the government was concerned about ensuring it does not harm the environment.

"Therefore, the State will limit the number of trekkers to a maximum of 300 per day on all trekking routes," Mr. Khandre said.

He said there was chaos when about 5,000 to 6,000 tourists visited Kumara Parvatha on January 26-27 this year and to avoid such situations, a limit had been set on the number of trekkers.

A file photo of the Western Ghats range near Talacauvery in Kodagu district. At present, tickets can be booked for five trekking trails.

The Minister launched the portal https://aranyavihaara.karnataka.gov.in using which the public can book tickets for all trekking routes in the State.

At present, tickets can be booked for five trails: Kumara Parvatha (via Subrahmanya), Bidahalli to Kumara Parvatha, Bidahalli-Kumara Parvatha-Subrahmanya, Chamarajanagar-Nagamale, and Talacauvery-Nishani Motte.

"By the end of this month, 40 more trekking routes will be added to the website. The site will also offer ticket reservations for wildlife safaris and boat safaris," the Minister said.

Officials said that one phone number can be used to book up to 10 tickets. "If cancelled seven days in advance, a full refund will be provided. Cancellations after that will result in a partial refund, with a certain amount being deducted," officials said.

The website also provides brief descriptions and images of the various trekking routes in the State, offering information and helping tourists make informed decisions about their treks.

Mr. Khandre said that some private companies organise trekking trips by purchasing tickets in bulk and as a result prevent genuine trekkers from accessing them. To address this issue, the booking system now requires government-issued ID cards with photos, such as PAN card or driving licence, to be uploaded when reserving tickets.

Plastic ban

He said that plastic water bottles, carry bags, food packages, and other items would be banned on trekking routes and forest roads.

"Travelers driving through the forest and trekkers will be asked to voluntarily dispose of prohibited items in the trash at the first checkpoint. In the second phase, inspections will be conducted. If plastic bottles, carry bags, liquor bottles, cigarettes, lighters, etc., are found during inspections, fines will be imposed," he said.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.B31/SE (IT)/EE(IT-1)/56113/2024-25 Date:03.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE(IT)/EE(IT-1)/56108/1/2024-25 for **"Development and Implementation of Meeting Management Software across all departments of Energy sector of GoK".** The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on the hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 04.10.2024, 5.00 PM.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Elec) IT, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009

HUBBALLI - DHARWAD URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Navanagar, Hubli- 580025
Phone : 0836 - 2224098, 2224195, 2224301, 2222616, 2224274, 2222505.

Ref No : HDUDA/e-Auction/01/2024-25/2472 Date: 01-10-2024

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

e-Auction of Corner Sites and Stray Sites in prestigiousLayouts Developed by HDUDA

1) Date of opening for e-Auction and Commencement of live bidding starts on **03-10-2024 @4:00 pm 1ST.**
2) Last Date of Registration for e-bidding is **25-10-2024 @ 3:30 pm 1ST.**
3) Last Date and time for closing e-Auction **29-10-2024 @ 2:00 pm 1ST (5 Minutes of Delta time)**

For additional conditions, rules and information visit Website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (Shakir I. Sandi) Chairman Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

Sd/- (Dr.Santhoshkumar Biradar), KAS Commissioner Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

DIPR/Hubli-Dharwad/461/Adverto/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), Mahadevapura Zone, KR Pura, Bengaluru.
No: BBMP/EE/ELE/TEND/03/2024-25 Date: 03.10.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) ITT (KW-1, 2, 3)

(Single/Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Elect), Mahadevapura Zone, Invites Item Rate tenders in accordance With KTPP rules 2000 and 2017, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike /KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent Central/State Government Organizations for the work of **Street Light Maintenance** detailed in the table.

Operation and Maintenance of street light Fittings for below mentioned Various Wards of Mahadevapura Zone.

Sl. No.	Ward No. & Areas & Package No.	Approx. Value to Work (₹.In Lakhs)	EMD (In ₹.)
1	Ward No-86, 87 Challakere, Horamavu (M01) 7 Months.	98.95	197900.00
2	Ward No-88, 90 Kalkere, Ramamurthynagara (M02) 7 Months	58.00	116000.00
3	Ward No-89, 94 Vijinapura, A Narayanapura (M03) 7 Months.	43.00	86000.00
4	Ward No-91,93 K R Puram, Devasandra (M04) 7 Months.	72.00	144000.00
5	Ward No-92 Basavanapura (M05) 7 Months.	50.10	100200.00
6	Ward No-95,96 Vijnananagar, HAL Airport (M06) 7 Months.	55.00	110000.00
7	Ward No-99 Byrathi (M07) 7 Months.	56.00	112000.00
8	Ward No-97 Kadugodi (M08) 7 Months.	60.00	120000.00
9	Ward No-98, 100 Hoodi, Garudacharpalya (M09) 7 Months.	63.00	126000.00
10	Ward No-101,106 Doddanekundi, Marathahalli (M10) 7 Months.	55.00	110000.00
11	Ward No-102, 103 AECS Layout, Whitefield (M11) 7 Months.	64.00	128000.00
12	Ward No-104, 105 Varthuru Munnekollala (M12) 7 Months.	98.95	197900.00
13	Ward No-107 Bellanduru (M13) 7 Months.	60.00	120000.00
14.	Maintenance of Street lights from Benniganahalli Flyover to Agara Including service roads, Underpasses & Flyover in Outer Ring road in Mahadevapura Zone. (M14) 7 Months **Approx. Value of Work: ₹.16.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹.40000.00**		

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kpp portal of the Government of Karnataka from **10.10.2024** onwards. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **28.10.2024** at **4:00** pm. (3) Technical Bid shall be opened on **30.10.2024** at **4:00** pm. (4) Commercial Bid shall be opened on or after **04.11.2024** at **4:00** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec.) Mahadevapura Zone

Doll display contest at Kodandarama Temple on the occasion of Dasara in Jayanagar at Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Bengaluru dolls up for Gombe Habba and more

While fiestivities n Mysuru are much talked about, Dasara is celebrated across Karnataka as 'Nada Habba' with different variations

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Across several areas stalls have been put up for over a week selling creative traditional dolls of gods and goddesses, kings and queens, animals, birds, and nature. SUDHAKARA JAIN

It's that time of year again when the people of Karnataka immerse themselves in the festive spirit of Dasara, extended over 10 days - a celebration marked by a vibrant display of dolls called Gombe Hobba, Ayudha Pooja, Saraswati Pooja and Vijaya Dashami that come back to back. While celebrations at Mysuru are much talked about, the festival is observed all across as Nada Habba with different observances.

While the entire nation started Navaratri on October 3, in Bengaluru, the beloved tradition of showcasing Dasara dolls, or Gombe Habba, has taken centre stage. From traditional to offbeat themes, to humble home setups to extravagant competitions, Gombe Habba across the city is adding to the Dasara celebrations.

Across areas like Malleswaram, Pottery Town, R.T. Nagar, Gandhi Bazar, Jayanagar and other markets, several stalls have been put up for over a week selling creative traditional dolls of gods and goddesses, kings and queens, animals, birds and nature. What stands out in these stalls are the new offbeat dolls. Some stalls had dolls of film actors including the legendary Dr. Rajkumar and the popular actors of the present generation. Others had dolls of leaders and reformers like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and others.

Apart from homes and institutions, dolls have been displayed at art spaces like Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, the National Gallery of Modern Arts, Untitled Arts Foundation and others. A doll display competition was also observed at the Shri Kodandarama temple at Jayanagar.

A doll display competition was also observed at the Shri Kodandarama temple at Jayanagar.

Meanwhile, women at apartments, corporate offices and institutions in the city are also dolling up for the festival. As each day of Navaratri has a significant colour, women staff at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), along with their director Dr. Pratima Murthy, were seen wearing yellow sarees and dresses, marking the first day of Navaratri on Thursday.

On the other hand, Durga Puja events, Dandiya and Garba nights have also begun across the city in areas like R.T. Nagar, Indiranagar, Koramangala, V.V. Puram and J.P. Nagar. The evening festivities are accompanied by food stalls, flea markets, games and more.

Beautiful handpainted dolls traditionally arranged in Navaratri festival. K. MURALI KUMAR

A Dasara doll displayed at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Scientists carry out first-ever documentation of dholes in Kalyana Karnataka region

Dholes - with less than 2,500 mature individuals - are notified as an endangered species by the IUCN Redlist

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Wildlife biologist Dr. Sanjay Gubbi and his team from the Nature Conservation Foundation and the Holématthi Nature Foundation in Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalaburagi have documented the presence of dholes (wild dogs) in the Kalyana Karnataka region. According to the team, this is the first-ever documentation of dholes in the region.

Kalaburagi and Bidar districts have the distinction of hosting all four wildlife species from the Canidae family found in Karnataka. These include dholes, wolves, golden jackal and Bengal fox.

The camera trapping study carried out during October-November 2023 was intended to understand the population of leopards in the region.

Serendipitous find

While only one leopard was documented in the area, the study interestingly resulted in the unanticipated documentation of dholes.

According to an official statement from the team, dholes - with less than 2,500 mature individuals - are notified as an endangered species by the IUCN Redlist and are perhaps rarer than tigers across their distributional range.

Post this study, dholes were also recorded by the camera traps set in the sanctuary by the Karnataka Forest Department. Apart from the Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary, dholes were also recorded in the adjoining reserved forests of Devagiri-Changler, Saalebeeranahalli, and Bashipur Reserved Forests in Bidar district.

Apart from the Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalaburagi district, dholes were also recorded in the adjoining reserved forests of Devagiri-Changler, Saalebeeranahalli, and Bashipur Reserved Forests in Bidar district.

Gubbi noted that, based on the documentation, a proposal has been submitted to Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre to notify Devagiri-Changler, Saalebeeranahalli, and Bashipur Reserved Forests of Bidar district as part of Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary.

This would add an additional area of 40.5 sqkm to the existing Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary and provide additional protected space for dholes.

The sanctuary consisting of dry deciduous forest and lateritic grasslands is a unique wildlife habitat in the Kalyana-Karnataka region.

Notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 2011, it is also the northern most protected area in Karnataka. Key large prey species found in the region include chital, blackbuck, four-horned antelope, and nilgai.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1974

Mysore Station of AIR

Bangalore. Oct. 3. The Mysore Station of All India Radio will be commissioned on November 14. Children's Day (Mr. Nehru's birthday).

This was stated here to-day by Mr. Dharm Bir Sinha, Union Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting, while participating in a "Meet the press" programme of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists.

He said arrangements for the publication of the "Akashavani" journal in Kannada had been finalised. The Mangalore station of AIR. he said, was expected to be completed by 1975-76.

As for new studios for the Bangalore AIR Station it would depend on the finalisation of the plan but at the moment it was expected that by 1976-77 it would be possible to have six completely equipped studios as against the existing three studios.

Mysore Dasara cancelled

Bangalore. Oct. 3: There will be no Dasara festivities in Mysore this year. The festivities scheduled to commence on October 15 have been cancelled by the Karnataka Government in view of the death of the former Maharaja of Mysore, Mr. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar recently.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

How foreign travellers saw it

Dasara or Navaratri has been documented and written about by medieval travellers to Vijayanagara like Nicolo-Dei-Conti of Italy who visited the court of Devaraya II during 1424-26 CE.
Abdur Razzak of Persia was in Vijayanagara between 1442 and 1443 CE, also during the regime of Devaraya II who ruled from 1424 CE to 1446 CE.

Documents from Wadiyar times

Details of Dasara celebrated in 1647 CE during the regime of Kantheerava Narasaraja Wadiyar have been documented by writer Govindavaidya in his work 'Kantheerava Narasaraja Vijayam' written in 1648 CE. Narasaraja Wadiyar was the twelfth maharaja of the kingdom of Mysore from 1638 to 1659 CE. He died in 1659 CE, at the age of 44.

Beginnings in Srirangapatna

Mysuru Dasra had its origins in Srirangapatana when Raja Wadiyar ascended the throne in 1610 CE. But the celebrations shifted to the city of Mysore after the fourth Anglo-Mysore war of 1799 in which Tipu Sultan was killed and the kingdom transferred to the Wadiyars. The capital also shifted from Srirangapatana to Mysore.

Glimpse of European durbar from 1805 CE

The European durbar was a concept introduced by Krishnaraja Wadiyar III in 1805 CE and it continued till 1947. A glimpse of this tradition has been depicted in one of the paintings at Sri Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery. It was a ceremonial gathering held by Indian rulers to demonstrate their loyalty to the crown in colonial times.

Elephants for Dasara procession in Mysuru

Their daily march as part of the rehearsal, from the palace along the actual procession route, commences from the Balarama Gate of the palace and a pilot vehicle accompanies them underlining the importance attached to these elephants who have a pivotal role in the iconic procession. Elephants are considered integral to Indian art and religious events.

Mysuru Dasara: The march of a tradition

Dasara in Mysuru is the continuation of a tradition started by the rulers of Vijayanagara empire as evident in the detailed descriptions of the 'great feast of Bisnaga'

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

It is that time of the year when the city of Mysuru comes alive in different hues and the air reverberates with the spirit of Dasara which will unfold to a sea of humanity showcasing the cultural diversity of State.

A tradition steeped in history, Mysuru Dasara - inaugurated on October 3 and which will conclude on October 12 this year - is also a tapestry of different traditions that characterizes Karnataka and emphasizes its unique identity.

From the inauguration of the festivities at Sri Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hills to the classical dance and music programmes in front of the illuminated palaces, Mysuru will witness a slew of cultural events and is set to be a one-stop destination for connoisseurs of fine arts as also tourists who will throng to the city in large numbers during the next 10 days.

K.R. Circle, which is a major landmark in Mysuru, illuminated for Dasara. M.A.SRIRAM

The golden throne on display at the Mysuru palace which will also be used for 'Khas Durbar' of the private Dasara of the Wadiyars. M.A.SRIRAM

Celebrations at Bisnaga

A celebration whose origins have a hoary past, Dasara in Mysuru, is a continuation of a tradition which was started by the rulers of Vijayanagara empire (founded 1336 CE) as evident in the detailed descriptions of the "great feast'' of "Bisnaga" (for Vijayanagara) written by medieval travellers from Persia and Portugal.

After the decline of the Vijayanagar empire post the battle of Talikota in 1565 CE, Raja Wadiyar, one of the feudatories of the Vijayanagara rulers, ascended the throne in Srirangapatana in 1610 CE and declared that Navaratri be celebrated on a grand scale.

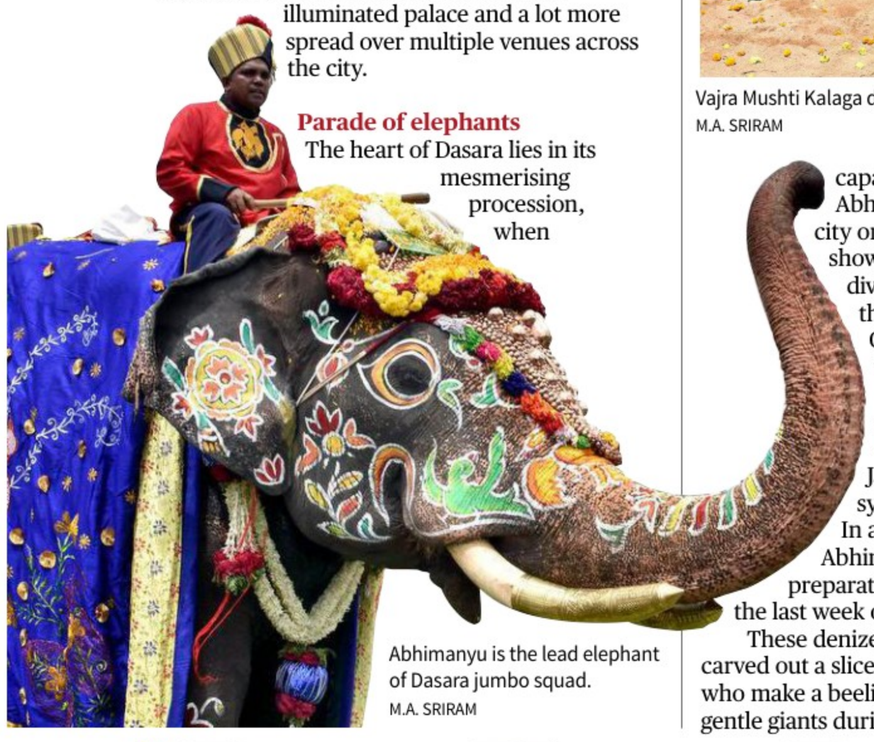
Thus the Wadiyars of Mysuru inherited this tradition and carried forward the cultural legacy of the Vijayanagara rulers which has come to be known as the Nada Habba or State Festival in the present times.

A pan-Indian festival with metaphysical connotations of victory of good over evil, Dasara in Mysuru is equated with the vanquishing of demon Mahishasura by goddess Chamundeshwari.

After a drought year

Being held after a low-key celebrations in 2023 owing to unprecedented drought, Mysuru Dasara promises to be a grand and enchanting event this year and the State government is harnessing the festival as a fulcrum to promote tourism in a big way.

The city roads have been lit up like never before and a slew of events have been lined up to regale the public. This includes Yuva Dasara, a programme featuring the latest from the world of Sandalwood and Bollywood, heritage walk, heritage tong ride, Dasara sports, film festival, folk dance and music, plays, poets conference, food festival or Aahara Mela, Dasara exhibition, flower show, yoga Dasara, display of dolls, classical music and dance in front of the illuminated palace and a lot more spread over multiple venues across the city.



Abhimanyu is the lead elephant of Dasara jumbo squad. M.A. SRIRAM

Parade of elephants

The heart of Dasara lies in its mesmerising procession, when caparisoned elephants led by Abhimanyu will march through the city on October 12 in a parade that will showcase not only the cultural diversity of the State but highlight the flagship programmes of the Government of the day through various tableaus.

And the elephants occupy the pride of place in the procession - popularly known as the Jamboo Savari - and are synonymous with Mysuru Dasara. In all 14 elephants led by tusker Abhimanyu are camping in Mysuru in preparation for the 10-day festival since the last week of August.

These denizens from the jungle camps have carved out a slice of heart of thousands of people who make a beeline to catch a glimpse of these gentle giants during their stay in the city.

Vajra Mushti Kalaga during the Navaratri celebrations. M.A. SRIRAM

Flower show at Kuppanna Park is integral to Mysuru Dasara and is a crowd puller. M.A. SRIRAM

Their daily march as part of the rehearsal, from the palace along the actual procession route, commences from the Balarama Gate of the palace and a pilot vehicle accompanies them underlining the importance attached to these elephants who have a pivotal role in the iconic procession. While elephants have been symbols of royalty besides being used in wars since the ancient times, they are also integral to Indian art and religious events as evident in the carvings and sculptures across thousands of temples across the country.

As travellers saw it

This slice of an ancient tradition - of the use of elephants in Dasara - was also historically documented by travellers like Domingo Paes and Fernao Nuniz - both from Portugal - visited Vijayanagara empire. Paes who visited Vijayanagara between 1520-22 CE describes what could be inferred as the Vijayadashmi procession.

The narrative of Domingo Paes is more elaborate and merits repetition as one can draw several parallels in the way the Dasara is celebrated in Mysuru. Though the institution of monarchy has been abolished in the present times, the procession and other events has similarities.

His account of wrestling bouts is nothing but the Vajramushti Kalaga that is conducted by the Wadiyars in their private Dasara. The Department of Archaeology, Museums and Herirage has published a work titled Mysuru Dasara, The State Festival authored by Dr. R. Gopal and Dr. La.Na. Swamy where certain accounts of foreign travellers have been cited.

"....their wrestling does not seem to be like ours, but there are blows given so severe as to break teeth and disfigure face...'', writes Domingo Paes. ''When these days of festival are past, the king hold a review of all his forces....'', says Domingo Paes after describing the "feast'' complete with various rituals that takes place for 9 days.

Commenting on the procession the medieval traveler writes that the "captains array their troops, each one in his place according to the rank....the cavalry were mounted on horses fully caparisoned ..." The description of the horses and cavalry is elaborate - given that the medieval traveller himself was a horse trader - after which he refers to the elephants.

"....the elephants in the same way are covered with caparison of velvet and gold with fringes, and rich clothes of many colours, and with bells that that the earth resounds. On their heads are painted faces of giants and other kinds of great beass. On the back of each one of the elephants are three or four men, dressed in their quilted tunics, and armed with shields and javelins and they were arrayed as if for a foray..'' as cited in The Vijayanagar Empire: Chronices of Paes and Nuniz

Fernano Nuniz who was in Vijayanagara during 1535-37, refers to the king of "Bisnaga" and notes that his stable had 400 elephants. On the nine days of the "feast", nine horses and nine elephants of the king, covered with flowers and with rich trappings appear before him, says the traveller and goes on to describe other events of the day.

"The king has a thousand wrestlers for these feasts who wrestle but not in our manner, for they strike and wound each with the two circlets with points....'', recalls Nuniz.

After Vijayanagara empire

After the fall of Vijayanagara many feudatories declared independence and held on to small territories to chart their own course in history of which Raja Wadiyar was one of them. He assumed kingship at Srirangapatana in 1610 CE and ordained that Navaratri festivals be celebrated on a grand scale.

In this, the Wadiyars inherited most of the practices including that of the grand Vijayadashami procession complete with procession comprising the tableaus, horses and elephants signalling the continuation of a tradition that is in vogue even in present times in Mysuru.

Dasara reached its apogee in modern times during the regime of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar (1902-1940) and the murals at the Mysuru palace capture the grandeur of the celebrations.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the titular king and the current Mysuru MP, will follow the time-honoured practices associated with the festival signalling the continuation of a tradition that began in 1610 CE. However, it will be a private affair of the Wadiyars witnessed by invitees only as the State event has supplanted the royal celebrations after the abolition of the privy purse in 1971.

A people's event

But it is the government-funded Nada Habba which is open to all and has emerged as peoples' event that rings in the festival zing lending credence to the phrase that Mysuru Dasara is not an event to be witnessed but an experience to be savoured.

Pinarayi says he didn't hire PR agency, lauds *The Hindu*'s ethics

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Pinarayi Vijayan

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday sought to dispel the Opposition's accusation that his office had contracted a public relations agency to liaise with the national media.

Speaking to presspersons here, Mr. Vijayan extolled *The Hindu*'s irreproachable editorial legacy of promptly rectifying, on record, inaccuracies that sometimes find their way into print.

Mr. Vijayan was fielding a barrage of questions about his office's objection to attributing economic offences, primarily gold smuggling and hawala racketeering, to a particular region and people in a news item that appeared in *The Hindu* on September 30.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Mr. Vijayan had made no such observation during the interview with *The Hindu* at the Kerala House in New Delhi on September 29. Subsequently, *The Hindu* issued a correction stating that it was added at the instance of a PR representative who organised the meeting.

Mr. Vijayan said *The Hindu* had shown the courage and the conviction to admit the error, which, he said, was rare in modern-day competitive journalism. "*The Hindu* has taken a very accurate position and upheld the highest standards in journalism," he said.

He clarified that the CMO had not contracted any private agency to transact with the media. He said the son of a former CPI(M) legislator had called on him at the Kerala House and said *The Hindu* had requested an interview. "Being *The Hindu*, I was interested and agreed. *The Hindu* newsperson told me that she was from Ottappalam in Palakkad and we limited the interview to 30 minutes because I had to attend the party's Central Committee meeting. Another person unknown to me and the former MLA's son were in the room. I presumed that the anonymous individual might be part of *The Hindu*'s editorial team," he added.

Mr. Vijayan said the averment that the former MLA's son had later sent *The Hindu* a request seeking the inclusion of the controversial statement as the Chief Minister's words warranted scrutiny. "I knew the youngster also as a party activist. He has not contacted me since the news broke," he added.

Mr. Vijayan also asked the media not to drag him into the market-driven rivalry for ratings.

Kerala govt. orders probe into Thrissur Pooram 'disruption'

Police chief to investigate ADGP's 'failure' to ensure smooth conduct of festival; CM alleges that disruption is evidence of an attempt to impair Kerala's social atmosphere with an eye on LS polls

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Taking action: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan said the Thrissur Pooram transcended religion, caste and community in State. FILE PHOTO

The Kerala Cabinet has ordered a multi-tiered probe into the alleged disruption of the iconic Thrissur Pooram festival.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Thursday that State Police Chief Shaik Darvesh Saheb would investigate Additional Director-General of Police, Law and Order, M.R. Ajith Kumar's "failure" in ensuring the festival's smooth conduct.

Mr. Saheb had found Mr. Ajith Kumar's inquiry report about the Thrissur Pooram disruption wanting and pointed to flaws in policing headed by the ADGP. The Cabinet ordered the constitution of a SIT headed by ADGP, Crime Branch, H. Venkatesh to probe the Pooram-related cognisable offences revealed in Mr. Ajith's report.

The government had last month launched a high-level probe against the ADGP, primarily based on the accusation that the police had scuttled the Thrissur Pooram to stoke Hindu resentment and advantage the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. It had also ordered an anti-corruption inquiry against the officer for alleged illegal wealth amassment.

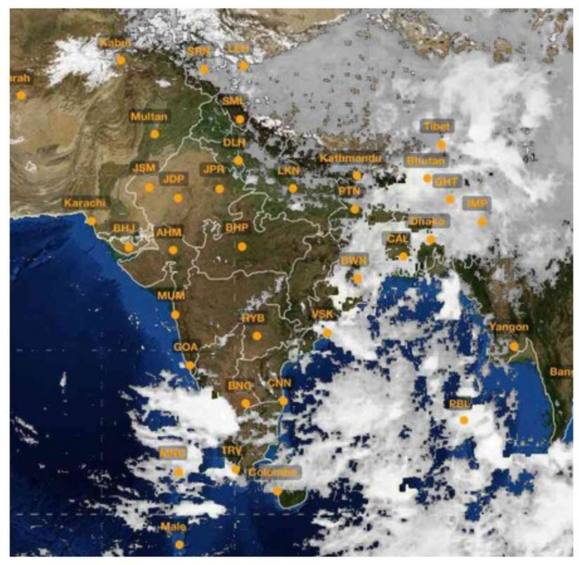
Mr. Vijayan said the government would take appropriate action based on the facts unearthed by the probes against Mr. Ajith.

He said the Thrissur Pooram disruption was evidence of an attempt to impair Kerala's social atmosphere with an eye on the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Vijayan said that some of the festival organisers' stipulations for the smooth conduct of the Pooram brazenly infringed laws governing the transportation, stocking, and use of hazardous materials. Mr. Vijayan said the 200-year-old Pooram transcended religion, caste and community in Kerala.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	20	27.0	24.0	Kozhikode	3	32.4	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	26.4	Kurnool	—	34.0	25.4
Aizawl	43	28.6	22.5	Lucknow	—	36.0	24.4
Allahabad	—	37.2	26.1	Madurai	—	37.5	26.0
Bengaluru	21	29.0	19.8	Mangaluru	—	31.6	25.6
Bhopal	—	35.5	24.6	Mumbai	—	32.9	26.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.8	26.5	Mysuru	7	33.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	35.2	22.6	New Delhi	—	37.0	26.6
Chennai	16	36.9	27.2	Patna	4	33.3	26.2
Coimbatore	—	34.4	24.8	Port Blair	31	31.0	23.7
Dehradun	—	33.0	20.8	Puducherry	—	37.2	24.8
Gangtok	63	21.4	17.6	Pune	20.5	32.3	24.9
Goa	—	30.6	26.6	Raipur	—	36.4	26.4
Guwahati	4	26.8	25.4	Ranchi	—	30.8	23.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Shillong	—	21.0	17.0
Hyderabad	—	34.2	24.0	Shimla	—	28.4	17.0
Imphal	20	25.3	19.9	Srinagar	—	29.9	11.3
Jaipur	—	37.4	27.2	Thiruvananthapuram	64	31.0	23.2
Kochi	2	31.2	25.4	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.0
Kohima	8	21.0	16.5	Vijayawada	—	35.8	26.4
Kolkata	—	33.3	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.7	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	.25	.27	119	75	
Bengaluru	3	.28	.96	43	43	
Chennai	7	.12	.60	57	80	
Delhi	.46	.70	.28	199	389	
Hyderabad	.12	.39	111	—	76	
Kolkata	5	.71	.69	131	115	
Lucknow	.10	.10	.43	156	94	
Mumbai	3	.20	.23	92	95	
Pune	—	.58	.84	51	75	
Visakhapatnam	9	.60	.42	78	103	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 198 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cerebration quiz regional rounds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 21st edition of the bl Cerebration, presented by the JK Tyre, has closed its registrations with an overall participation of over 3,600 taking the online test.

This prestigious corporate quiz championship, organised by The Hindu businessline, is open to corporate executives, business professionals, and undiscovered bright minds with a grand prize of up to ₹1.5 lakh up for grabs.

The top six contestants from each city will advance to the virtual regional finals.

The schedule is: Hyderabad - Oct. 5 at 11 a.m.; Bengaluru - Oct. 6 at 11 a.m.; Delhi - Oct. 12 at 11 a.m.; Mumbai - Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. The national finals, a live on-ground event, will take place at the BSE in Mumbai.

Finals

On October 20, winners of the regional finals will compete for the title. The all-India finals is from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The first prize is ₹75,000, the second ₹50,000, and the third ₹25,000. The quiz is sponsored by Title Partner JK Tyre, powered by Indian Oil, in association with BSE and the University partner is Amity University.

ED summons Azharuddin on October 8

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The ED has issued fresh summons to former cricketer and Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin to appear before it on October 8 after he skipped deposition on Thursday.

He was summoned in a money laundering case related to alleged financial irregularities of Hyderabad Cricket Association. Azharuddin was summoned on Thursday to record his statement under PMLA.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division,
Dasarahalli Zone, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru - 560 073.

No: EE/ELE/DZ/TEND/GN/01/2024-25 **Date: 03.10.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Electrical Division), Dasarahalli Zone, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP/CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent Central/State Govt. organizations for the Electrical works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Package No. & Name of Work
1	D1: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Kammagondanahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No.15. **Package D-1. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 43.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.86,000/-.
2	D2: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Mallasandra Surrounding Area in Ward No.16. **Package D-2. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.50,000/-.
3	D3: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Chikkasandra Surrounding Area in Ward No.17. **Package D-3. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 43.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.86,000/-.
4	D4: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Bagalagunte Surrounding Area in Ward No.18. **Package D-4. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.50,000/-.
5	D5: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at T.Dasarahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No.19. **Package D-5. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 22.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.44,000/-.
6	D6: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Nelagadaranahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No.20. **Package D-6. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 27.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.54,000/-.
7	D7: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Chokkasandra Surrounding Area in Ward No.21. **Package D-7. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 22.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.44,000/-.
8	D8: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Peenya Industrial Area Surrounding Area in Ward No.22. **Package D-8. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 33.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.66,000/-.
9	D9: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Rajagopalanagar Surrounding Area in Ward No.23. **Package D-9. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.50,000/-.
10	D10: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Hegganahalli Surrounding Area in Ward No.24. **Package D-10. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.50,000/-.
11	D11: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lights at Sunkadakatte Surrounding Area in Ward No.25. **Package D-11. Approximate Value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs.50,000/-.

Class of Contractor: Class II and above.
Period of Completion: 10 Months.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal of GoK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. from **08.10.2024 onwards.** 2) Last date for submission of Bids: **23.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs.** 3) Date of Opening of Bids: **24.10.2024 at 16:00 hrs.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or from the KPP portal of GoK **https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in**.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (TIDCO)
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

e-Tender Notice

NIT.No. TIDCO/TANCAM/ 2024–25/1 **Date: 04.10.2024**

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) has established a few Centres of Excellence in Emerging Technologies. One of them being the Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing (TANCAM) in collaboration with Dassault Systemes. In this regard, TIDCO intends to onboard an agency for operation and maintenance for TANCAM.

Interested firms can download the Tender document from the website **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

1. Pre-bid meeting at **3.00 PM on 10.10.2024 @ TIDCO Office**
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **3.00 PM Hrs on 25.10.2024** through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
3. Opening of Technical Proposals/ Bids is at 4.00 PM on 25.10.2024 at TIDCO Office.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com , Website: https://tidco.com

DIPR/4050/Tender/2024

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, C.I.D, Special Units and Economic Offences, Carlton House, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

No: 08/STS-1/CCD&CIDUpgradation/CID/2023-24 (Vol-II) **Date: 03.10.2024**

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

15 days Short term E-Tenders are invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and rules, 2000 through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** for the supply/maintenance of below mentioned Softwares/Components & "House Keeping & Plumbing Services for CID Office" for the use of C.I.D, Bengaluru.

Sl. No.	Name of the Item/Component	Qty	Approximate Cost (in Rs.)	Last Date for Bid submission
	"Upgradation of Softwares of Cyber Crime Division, CID and Network & IT Infrastructure at CID Unit" Scheme			15.10.2024 at 17.00 Hours
1	Graphical Link Analysis and Intelligence Collection Tool	01 No.	75,00,000/-	
2	Video Trail Analysis Tool	01 No.	52,65,750/-	
3	Fund Trail Analysis Tool	01 No.	17,00,000/-	
4	Social Media and Web Based Evidence Collection Solution	01 No.	15,00,000/-	
5	Web Tool for Social Media Monitoring	01 No.	26,00,000/-	
	"House Keeping & Plumbing Services for CID Office"			15.10.2024 at 17.00 Hours
6	House Keeping & Plumbing Services for CID Office	-	40,00,000/-	

In order to participate in e-Procurement platform all the intended Tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. A training program in e-Procurement is organized by e-Procurement cell. The Tenderers who participate in the e-Procurement Tender can take assistance with e-Procurement help desk at 080-46010000 / 080-68948777. It is mandatory for tenderers to register in e-Procurement platform.

Please visit **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for more information or call Helpline 080-46010000 / 080-68948777.

Sd/-
For Director General of Police,
CID, Special Units and Economic Offences,
Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAA/2335/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT KALABURAGI
DISTRICT PROGRAMMING OFFICER
DISTRICT BLINDNESS CONTROL SOCIETY, KALABURAGI
dlogulbarga@gmail.com, Ph: 08472-278649

REF NO: DHFWS/2023-24/IND0561/CALL-3 Date : 03-10-2024

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION :-

1) Tender Reference No.: **DHFWS/2023-24/IND0561/CALL-3**, 2) Name of the work: Supply of Spectacles under ASHA KIRANA for 19-39 Middle Age Group in Kalaburagi District. (Re-Tender), 3) Tender Amount : **196.93 Lakh**, 4) Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender in e Procurement portal: **08.10.2024 @ 17:30 Hrs,** 5) Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids : **10.10.2024 @ 11:00 Hrs,** 6) Date and Time of Equipments Demonstration (Sample Submmission): Shall be intimated, 7) Date and time of financial bid opening: **14.10.2024 @ 12:00 Hrs (Tentative),** 8) Address DHFWS, District Leprosy Office, beside GIMS Hospital KALABURAGI-585102

Sd/- District Blindness Control Officer
Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/485/KSMC&A/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Office of The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit,
State Highway Development Project, PWD Annexe Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in e-Mail: cepiushdp@gmail.com

No: CPO/SHDP/Tech/EE-3/Phase-5(Stage-1)/Tender Notification/2024-25/3402 **Date: 03.10.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF STATE HIGHWAYS & MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS UNDER SHDP-PHASE 5 (STAGE-1)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 10/2024-25 DATED: 03-10-2024

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Superintendent Engineer-01 & Superintendent Engineer-02, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered with KPWD/CPWD approved vide G.O No: PWD E-304 EAP 2023 Bengaluru, Dated: 29.02.2024 for below mentioned package works under SHDP Phase-5 (Stage-1), as per Standard Tender Document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The Tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender Exclusive of 18% GST (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	**PKG Nos:** 699, 736 **(1st Call).**	Package wise amount put to tender may be obtained through KPP Portal	Package wise EMD may be obtained through KPP Portal	Class-I & above	11 months (including monsoon)
2	**PKG No:** 608, 646, 666, 760 **(2nd Call).** **PKG No:** 636 **(3rd Call).**	Package wise amount put to tender may be obtained through KPP Portal	Package wise EMD may be obtained through KPP Portal	Class-I & above	11 months (including monsoon)

TENDER PROCESS DETAILS: Sl.No.1 Details: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through KPP Portal from: **14.10.2024** to **14.11.2024** upto **4:30 P.M. (2)** Pre-Tender meeting on: **21.10.2024** at **11:30 A.M.** (O/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). **(3)** Last Date & time for receipt of Tenders: **14.11.2024** upto **4:30 P.M. (4)** Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: **19.11.2024** at **11:30 A.M. onwards. (5)** Tentative Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: **25.11.2024** at **11.30 A.M.**

Sl.No.2 Details: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through KPP Portal from: **05.10.2024** to **15.10.2024** upto **4:30 P.M. (2)** Pre-Tender meeting on: **08.10.2024** at **11:30 A.M.** (O/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). **(3)** Last Date & time for receipt of Tenders: **15.10.2024** upto **4:30 P.M. (4)** Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: **19.10.2024** at **11:30 A.M. onwards. (5)** Tentative Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: **24.10.2024** at **11.30 A.M.**

Corrigendum/ addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in KPP portal only.

Registered Contractors in KPWD/CPWD and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender.

Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through **support@eprochelpdesk.com** KPP Portal helpdesk telephone nos are +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777.

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer-01
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru.

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer-02
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2332/SPAN/2024-25

Split decision

The ECI and the office of the Speaker have not played fair in cases of defection

In the run-up to the impending election to the Maharashtra Assembly, the rivalry between the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), now operating as separate parties, will have its inevitable influence on political developments and electoral outcomes. In the latest development related to the rift, NCP founder Sharad Pawar has approached the Supreme Court for a direction to the NCP led by Ajit Pawar to opt for a new symbol in the Assembly elections. The NCP's 'clock' symbol is with the Ajit Pawar group, following a ruling by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in February, recognising it as the official NCP. There is some logic to the demand that the Ajit Pawar group give up the 'clock' now. The ECI's order has already been challenged in the Supreme Court. Oral observations in early hearings indicated that there are some doubts about the 'legislative majority' test adopted by the ECI while recognising the Ajit Pawar faction as the NCP and allotting the 'clock' to the group. The ECI's order had justified the use of the legislative majority test by observing that the test on which group had organisational majority was inconclusive, as was the test based on the party's 'aims and objectives'. Mr. Ajit Pawar revolted against his uncle and joined the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance and became part of the ruling Mahayuti coalition, while the NCP (Sharad Pawar) is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, the opposition combine that includes the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress.

However, in the Lok Sabha elections, Mr. Ajit Pawar's group won only one seat, while Mr. Sharad Pawar's party, using the symbol of a 'man blowing a turha' (trumpet), won eight, besides polling a much higher number of votes. The outcome raises the question whether the legislative majority during a given period could be used to gain or lose recognition. Further, Mr. Sharad Pawar has argued that the 'clock' has been the NCP's reserved symbol for many years and allotting it to one group may cause confusion in the voters' minds. The court will have to decide whether to have a level-playing field by denying the 'clock' symbol to both sides, or let the recognised faction use the symbol as long as the ECI order is in force. Such disputes, including the other major rift in Maharashtra over who represents the Shiv Sena, pose a challenge to the ability of parties to maintain organisational unity in the face of attempts to split them through defection and rebellion. The fate of the individuals and parties involved often depend on the Speaker under the anti-defection law and the ECI, which accords recognition to parties and allots symbols. Both institutions seem to need the Supreme Court to keep them honest.

Desert storm

Women's cricket gets the spotlight as the T20 World Cup gets underway

If West Asia is in the news as a conflict zone, the desert sands of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) may offer some relief over the next fortnight. The ICC T20 Women's World Cup that commenced at Sharjah on Thursday will oscillate between this venue and Dubai. Featuring 10 teams split into two groups of five each, the championship will conclude on October 20. The tournament was supposed to be held in Bangladesh, but the unrest of the previous months in Dhaka meant that though India's eastern neighbour holds the hosting rights, the matches had to be shifted to the UAE. While Australia will step in with the swagger of a defending champion, having seized the cup after vanquishing host South Africa in the 2023 edition, India will walk in with the hope of finally claiming the trophy. In the 2020 final at Melbourne, India wilted against Australia. Cut to the present, Harmanpreet Kaur's strong unit will clash against New Zealand at Dubai on Friday and a good first outing is essential. India has moved on from the era of Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami and those are massive shoes to fill, but Harmanpreet, Jemimah Rodrigues, Smriti Mandhana, and others have tried their best to chart a fresh path.

The tournament is also invested with a larger cause layered with gender sensitivity. While male players get accolades and commercial heft through cricket, female players have always fought for their rights. Even in the latest event, despite being pitted against each other as rivals, there is a sisterhood at play. Through interactions with the press, all the leading female players have sought more games and also more Tests. Often the women are resigned to playing just limited-overs cricket. While Mithali turned out in 232 ODIs and 89 T20Is, it is a travesty that she played only 12 Tests in a long career. Harmanpreet and company have often sought comfort in diverse franchise leagues but there is nothing like a solid bilateral contest to toughen up the stars. Having won the title on six occasions, Australia remains the behemoth. Alyssa Healy and her merry bunch will be the team that most squads, including old rival England, would want to knock off the pedestal. And for those keen on watching neighbourhood rivalry, India and Pakistan are placed in Group A and will face off on Sunday. Diplomatic tensions have ensured that the two nations compete against each other only in global events.

An obsession with ranking is harming India's universities

S. Swaminathan

Retired professor and scientist. Views are personal

In this digital age, we reduce everything to numbers. This trend has consumed the education ecosystem, as seen in the rise of global ranking agencies, which assign ranks to universities across the world every year. India has its own National Institutional Ranking Framework to rank universities in the country.

The purpose of a university is to teach and mentor future citizens; and to acquire and create knowledge through research. Research and teaching are two sides of the education coin: knowledge creation and dissemination. A university needs to excel in both in order to fulfil its obligations to students and society. Through its activities, a university also has social and economic impacts. It is impossible to capture a university's multidimensional nature with a single metric, represented by a global or national rank. Yet, this is what ranking systems claim to do.

Overemphasis on research

The global university ranking system is one-dimensional. It places huge emphasis on research activity. A university's research output is quantified using criteria such as the number of papers published, the impact factor of the journals in which they are published, the amount of research funding acquired, and the number of PhD students who were admitted and graduated. These numbers by themselves cannot capture the quality, content, relevance, and impact of research. Sadly, despite being aware of this flaw in the ranking process, Indian universities are all in the ranking race. A world rank makes the university 'visible' and helps attract international students, world-class faculty, and academic partners, philanthropists, and donors. Universities and the government even tweak or alter policies to improve ranks. A university that is not ranked may as well not exist – such is the power we have accorded to global rankings.

India has bought into the American education system, which is shaped by a strong belief in free market capitalism and unfettered private competition. To help improve the global ranking of India's top universities and premier institutes, the government set up the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) a few years ago. HEFA mobilises market resources to fund the country's global rank-aspiring institutions in the form of repayable loans at competitive interest rates.

In tandem, the government also granted full autonomy to several public higher education institutions. This encompasses financial autonomy as well, which means that the government will cease to support them. In other words, public higher education institutions will need to generate their own funds by enhancing student fees. This is touted as a 'win-win' strategy for both the university and the government: the university has a shot at improving its rank and the government no longer has the onerous responsibility of funding it. But if the race for a global rank sacrifices the essential function of educating students (which is not factored into the ranking process), this is not a meaningful 'win' for either. Importantly, it is also not a 'win' for the economically weaker sections of society.

> The metrics-focused system has created a situation which implies that education is a market rather than a citizen's right and the state's duty

The importance of teaching and mentoring

The metrics-driven, global rank-aspiring higher educational system has had an adverse impact on the teaching community. The undue emphasis on research to the exclusion of other vital functions, especially teaching, has created a sorry situation in which university job aspirants are often judged by the number of research papers they have produced, the impact factor of the journals they were published in, and the numbers of their citations; and not by their ability to be an effective communicator, teacher, and mentor.

Once selected as a faculty member of the university, the candidate's subsequent career advancement depends on additional metrics such as the amount of research grant funds secured and the number of PhD degrees awarded. This obsession with metrics ignores the faculty member's actual teaching and mentoring capacity as a determinant of career advancement in the higher education ecosystem.

Unlike in the case of research, teaching is not amenable to quantification using metrics. It is the unmeasurable something that metrics cannot deal with. So, the role for teaching has declined in the education system. In fact, in the perspective of a typical university professor, writing a paper or working on a grant application takes precedence over teaching today. Ironically, teaching is a distraction from 'all important' research. University professors have become contractors churning out research papers to improve the university's ranking.

The higher education ecosystem is pervaded by a culture of 'publish or perish' without a meaningful and transparent mechanism for accountability in place. Is this kind of research, at the expense of educating students, really meaningful? Are instances of plagiarism, data manipulation, and other research misconduct emanating from our premier institutes and universities the undesirable and unintended consequences of our pre-occupation with metrics? In these cases, are not the teachers failing in their role as mentors and role models? Students who emerge from this system either quit in disillusionment or end up propagating this situation, propelling us into a downward spiral.

Creating two tracks

There is no doubt that research is the engine that drives growth and innovation, but it cannot be an excuse to neglect teaching, which prepares students for the real world. Universities should consider separate tracks for research-focused and teaching-focused faculty members. Interests of faculty members in these two tracks may extend beyond their primary focus, but they must not be expected to excel in both at all times. Otherwise, there will be scope for resentment and lack of commitment, undermining the very faculty members whose contributions are critical to the university's mission.

Universities must realise that the scientific content of a paper and its possible societal and economic impact are more relevant than the impact factor of the journal in which it is published or the number of citations it garners. Teaching must be recognised as an important function of the university and teachers must be encouraged to improve curricula. Careful, unbiased judgment must replace metrics. Universities must enable a paradigm shift in their institutional culture to value and enable the success of both research and teaching efforts that collectively contribute to their overall mission as being centres of higher education and learning.

The metrics-focused system or 'metricocracy', if you will, which we mistakenly believe is synonymous with meritocracy, has created a situation which implies that education is a market rather than a citizen's right and the state's duty; knowledge is a commodity and not a means of becoming more humane; and students are customers, instead of future citizens. This warped ecosystem views academic rigour as detracting from the business of delivering the product to the customer. It kills creativity and the enthusiasm to learn, does not prepare students for the real world, and is harmful to future generations.

Why Italy matters to India

Antonio Bartoli

Ambassador of Italy to India

In this age of 'polycrisis', Italy and India share common interests but also joint challenges in the Indo-Mediterranean Sea. This region is vital for global trade, especially for Italy which ranks sixth among the world's largest exporters. It is also crucial for digital connectivity: the Blue-Raman submarine data cables will soon connect Genoa with Mumbai. Piracy in the Red Sea, the conflict in Gaza and Lebanon, and the effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine on agricultural and oil trade require our joint efforts to ensure a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Mediterranean.

Therefore, Italy has stepped up its commitment in security and defence in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia. Apart from joining the Group of Friends of UNCLOS in 2021, it has been the second largest contributor to the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Atalanta and the European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH). Since February 2024, Italy has been a driving force in the EU military operation, EUNAVFOR ASPIDES, to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Gulf.

Naval presence

We have also increased our naval presence in India. After joining the Information Fusion Centre of the Indian Ocean Region in March 2023, patrol ship *ITS Francesco Morosini* visited Mumbai in August 2023. The Italian Carrier Strike Group (aircraft carrier *ITS Cavour* and frigate *ITS Alpino*) is currently in Goa. We are expecting the amazing tall ship *ITS Amerigo Vespucci* in Mumbai from November 28 to December 2. It is the training vessel of the Italian Navy. We are also planning to build an 'Italy village' that will offer cultural, fashion, and culinary events, as well as conferences and exhibitions.

ITS Cavour is a short take off and vertical landing ship constructed by the Italian naval shipyard Fincantieri and has been in the service of the Italian Navy since 2009. As a 'dual use' vessel, it can project maritime power, but also provide logistical autonomy and serve environmental and humanitarian interventions. We are delighted that PASSEX exercises (training exercises to develop and maintain mariner skills and strengthen interoperability) are being held during the stay. *ITS Cavour* is also hosting a workshop on defence industry cooperation. At the same time, it serves as a hospital to operate children with facial malformations: a team of Indian and Italian doctors is performing surgeries under the framework of 'Operation Smile', organised by the Smile House Foundation, Italy.

> Piracy in the Red Sea, the conflict in the Middle East, and the effects of Russia's aggression against Ukraine on agricultural and oil trade require our joint efforts to ensure a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Mediterranean

Defence ties

Bilaterally, the Italy-India defence cooperation relies on a defence agreement signed in October 2023. This document lays the basis for a further expansion of our defence ties in many fields, from research to industrial cooperation, maritime domain awareness, sharing of information, and education and environmental issues related to military activities. At the same time, our defence cooperation strongly relies on regular talks such as the Italy-India Military Cooperation Group meeting, held in March in New Delhi.

When it comes to defence production, Italy matters to India: two of our companies, Leonardo and Fincantieri, are ranked among the first 50 of SIPRI's top arms-producing and military services companies in the world (2022), while other companies, such as Beretta, Elettronica and KNDS, albeit smaller in size, possess outstanding technical know-how. Over the last few years, Italian defence companies have shown to be open to joint ventures, co-production, and joint development. Fincantieri is cooperating with Cochin Shipyard since 2020, while Elettronica signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bharat Electronics Limited in 2019. This partnership approach is in line with India's 'Make in India' ambitions and can respond to growing requirements by the Indian armed forces.

Italy also looks at India as a valuable partner for development of the Indian Ocean Region, from East Africa to India's shores via the Arabian Sea. Both Italy and Indian are keen promoters of Africa in international fora and jointly supported the inclusion of the African Union in the G20. During the Italy-Africa Summit in January, Italy launched a new initiative with Africa, the Mattei Plan, aimed at creating a mutually beneficial partnership to realise several important projects across the continent. This initiative mobilises Italian capabilities with €5.5 billion in public investments and the involvement of all public entities and the private sector. Among the first countries chosen for this plan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Mozambique are adjacent to the Indo-Mediterranean area. The ambition is to engage with other partners to realise sustainable projects which will help drive economic and social development in Africa.

At the same time, Italy has supported the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Amid the conflict in Gaza and the escalating tensions in West Asia, we believe that IMEC can be part of a long-term vision to ensure shared prosperity in the region. Railway connections, ports, logistics and custom systems can support peace endeavours along a trade route that is as essential for Italy as it is for India.

People-to-people ties

Italy matters to India as a friend. We host the second largest Indian diaspora in the EU. Italy is a reliable economic and defence partner, the second largest manufacturing country in Europe, and a robust security provider taking up responsibilities as a member of the EU and NATO. What persists over time are people-to-people ties. These bonds dig deep into an ancient history of contacts between our two civilizations and find new inspiration with every story of cultural exchange, integration, and business success.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crisis in West Asia

The United Nations Security Council called for an emergency meeting on the Lebanon-Israel conflict, but doesn't seem to be able to do much to stop the crisis ("Israel vows to hit back at Iran, reinforces troops in Lebanon", October 3). It is time for serious reforms in the UN. The body must keep pace with a rapidly changing world order. One hopes that at least the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation will try to bring about peace in West Asia.

Rohith Varon S.S.
Chennai

Israel showed arrogance in declaring the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, 'persona non grata'. It is only going to get more and more isolated in the international community if its Prime Minister opens up more war fronts.

Cijo Joseph
Kottayam

A blow to research?

A PhD candidate must have an aptitude for research, apart from a passion for the subject, and a critical bent of mind ("The net result will be poor doctoral research", October 3). Not everyone who passes the NET will have these skills. It is critical that universities and institutes of higher learning and research have autonomy in selecting PhD candidates.

Kosaraju Chandramouli
Hyderabad

Many humanities and social science departments have exposed students to global standards of research at an affordable cost, despite challenges such as poor funding and threats to academic freedom. By asking candidates to write proposals and by conducting interviews, universities would test skills such as writing, critical thinking, and the art of formulating research questions. The UGC's move tests none of these skills. In the long run, it will compromise our ability to generate original research.

Anna Jacob
Delhi

I had cracked NET and qualified for UGC-JRF in the 1990s without attending coaching classes. NET was different back then: Part A and B were multiple choice questions (MCQ) and Part C (on a particular subject) was descriptive. Today, Part C has been replaced with MCQ. Although I do not agree that MCQ predominantly assesses our memory capabilities and recalling abilities, going back to the earlier pattern would be a more balanced and accommodative suggestion. Replacing NET with individual entrance exams across institutions is unwarranted.

Padmesh P. Pillai
Kasaragod

Corrections & Clarifications

The first paragraph of a report, "U.S. stays India's top trading ally, export destination in 2024" (Business page, October 1, 2024) said that the U.S. bilateral goods trade with India in January-July 2024 as *$190 billion*. It should have been *$72 billion*.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

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Should EC ensure internal democracy in political parties?

PARLEY

O. P. Rawat
Former Chief Election Commissioner

M.R. Madhavan
co-founder and President of the PRS Legislative Research

India's multi-party democracy thrives on diversity but often sees political parties driven by individual charisma rather than internal democracy. Despite their role in upholding the nation's democratic framework, many parties struggle to maintain democratic structures. Can the Election Commission (EC) ensure these organisations practise internal democracy? Former Chief Election Commissioner O. P. Rawat and PRS Legislative Research President M.R. Madhavan discuss this question with **Sreeparna Chakrabarty**. **Edited excerpts:**

The EC has been thinking of nudging political parties on the issue of internal democracy. But how can they do it?

O. P. Rawat: The EC is the registering authority for all the political parties in our country. As such, the EC monitors whether they are functioning according to their Constitution, by-laws, etc. And in the process, they also oversee whether the elections to their office bearers are taking place regularly.

But there has been one important point in this whole issue. This was the 2002 ruling of the Supreme Court which says that the EC cannot go into the political process and anything which is part of the political process per se. That is why it has no power to de-register a political party based on any violation of these things.

They can de-register if registration has been obtained on the basis of fraud or other things, but they cannot de-register a party if they don't have periodic elections. Otherwise, to whatever extent the laws permit, the EC is doing it.

M. R. Madhavan: I have a slightly different way of looking at it: what is the EC's core mandate according to the Constitution? Their mandate is to conduct elections for Parliament, State Legislatures, and the posts of President and Vice President of India. They have to maintain electoral rolls and under Article 103, they advise on disqualification of any MP. There is a similar one for MLAs other than the anti-defection disqualifications, which is decided by the Speaker and not by them. That is their limited mandate.

And the question is are they carrying out this mandate well or not? So, any institution, should first do its core job and then take on more things. And my argument is that the EC has deteriorated in its core job and they are unable to do even that.

So before giving any institution an extra mandate, I would require them to do their core job first. That is my limited point and I would not give them anything more because they are not competent enough to do what they are supposed to do in any case.

Fair process: A boy walks past a painting made for voter awareness by EC at Jalore in Rajasthan on April 18, 2024. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

What would be your views on whether the EC should have the power to de-register parties at all?

OPR: I would like to say that the EC does whatever is mandated to it with efficiency. The only thing is that when it comes to the de-registration of parties, it will have many different directions or dimensions.

You know, elections are challenged only by way of election petitions according to our Constitution. We have been monitoring this and find that these disputes are much less every time over the years. If you compare us with the democracy in the most developed country as well, they had a storming of their legislature when the results were against one candidate.

This kind of thing, we never witnessed in our country after any election, and political acceptance of the election results is beyond imagination for all democracies which is borne by international conferences which I attended and which my colleagues attended everywhere. Election Commissioners from different countries say that India is a golden example where acceptance of election results by all political parties is enormous.

With these credentials, if the EC is made to go into the internal process, the political process for de-registering, we will be running the risk of getting the poll body into a model where even the main stakeholders – the political parties – will start developing suspicion. So, I think we have to take a view in totality not only in the context of political parties about registration and regulation but also about the delivery of elections time and again on the stipulated time and in a free fair manner.

MRM: So, I am not going to talk about the EC's reputation, which has been very high, but it has, in my opinion, faltered in the rating bit.

But back to the idea of political parties being regulated by them, I would agree with Mr. Rawat in saying that they should not get into that. Because then the EC becomes political, and susceptible to various political pressures, it should maintain its distance from the politics of the day. So, I would say whether parties hold internal elections or not, you cannot regulate them because even today they are required to hold. But what do they do? There is somebody who manages it so that somebody is contesting unelected or it is managed so that the people know who is going to get elected. I would say the discipline of political parties should come from the electorate. If people think that this party is not democratic and you want a democratic party, don't vote for them. If people want them, they will vote for them.

> Election Commissioners from different countries say that India is a golden example where acceptance of election results by all political parties is enormous
> **O. P. RAWAT**

Is there any existing legal ground on which elections can be mandated within political parties?

OPR: No, I feel there is nothing except for this registration of political parties by the EC and the periodical review of compliance with their Constitution, their by-laws, and all those things. But in the end, it is a very kind of loose compliance which is visible.

Probably the most well-known instance of EC intervening in the lack of democracy issue was when they rejected the YSRCP proposal to make Jagan Mohan Reddy permanent president of the party. They said that such a step was inherently anti-democratic. Was this within its mandate?

OPR: Actually, the EC does not have that kind of mandate, but within the framework of the political party registration rules, the EC is overseeing the compliance with their Constitution and their by-laws. Now amending that is contrary to the democratic idea of periodic elections and that is the point at which the EC took shelter to reject the move.

MRM: Does it matter? Because let them make that intervention. The party re-elects the same person again, who will contest unopposed. I mean the whole thing is that what we are talking about is not the reality but what could be in the letter of the law and what can they do. But if in reality, political parties are being essentially dominated by one personality who controls the whole thing, then there is nothing that stops them from having an election with one candidate who will get selected for a post. So, it will tick the boxes, but there is absolutely no difference in practice.

In a situation where we want or think that the EC should regulate internal democracy in political parties, how can such a law be brought in?

MRM: My simple answer is that it is not needed. So, the question should not arise.

OPR: I agree with Mr. Madhavan. We should leave this kind of decision to the people who are the sovereign electorate and therefore I personally feel that one should not think of that.

Why this question arises again and again, is that the EC has made certain observations in many of the cases where parties are split.

OPR: Actually, these issues fall under the political party's symbols order, 1968, Paragraph 15. And under that, EC goes by four tests when there is a split, whether every faction has been following the party Constitution, whether they have been having the majority of the party the organisation whether they have been having the majority of the legislature wing or they are proceeding according to the by-laws.

All these four tests are applied every time starting from Sadiq Ali case. It always comes down to the legislative majority, because all other tests fail.

The only test which is amenable to the summary inquiry is the number of legislatures with the splinter group. So, whoever has the majority of a number of legislators with the splinter group gets the party symbol and the party name and that has been the case with the EC. In the text arguments are there where the arguments cover the aspects that since this group which was in command did not hold elections, did not sort of follow these by-laws, and therefore whatever orders they have passed for disqualifying are invalid all those things are just for by way of explanation.

MRM: I will just add one thing, which is that I mean, I am looking at it as a citizen, right? I mean, it is in our interest that EC has a very high credibility on whatever it does, so that we trust the process.

They need to have an objective way of making the decision and as Mr. Rawat said, if you are counting the number of legislators supporting, there is an actual number there and you can count if number A is greater than number B or is number A less than number B and make that decision. So, that is a fairly wise way of doing it without getting politically entrapped and I think they have been smart at doing that.

To listen to the full interview
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NOTEBOOK

Endless tides in reporting Maharashtra's GPS

It is a dynamic political arena marked by constant engagement, where reporting on governance, politics, and society is anything but dull

Abhinay Deshpande

Maharashtra, the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, is a relentless battleground of political activity. In the two years since I started reporting on the State's GPS – governance, politics, and society – there has not been a dull day. New controversies often arise before the previous ones have even begun to cool down.

The Opposition's vigorous efforts keep issues in the spotlight, while the ruling dispensation is never far behind in delivering rebuttals, whether through traditional media or a post on X.

The political landscape here is markedly different from Telangana, where I reported from 2015 to 2022. In Telangana, the K. Chandrashekhar Rao-led TRS (now BRS) government dominated the narrative, leaving little room for dissent, as the Opposition was weakened by defections and had minimal representation in the Assembly. Reporting there felt like covering a monologue, with few challenges to the ruling party's agenda. The Opposition parties struggled to make their presence felt. In contrast, the Opposition MVA in the western State is vocal, challenging the government at every move.

Amid this storm, it is easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. The issues that dominate headlines one day can fade from public consciousness almost as quickly as they arise. This is not just a symptom of the State's volatile political climate, but a reflection of the evolving news cycle.

Grave matters often do not receive the follow-up they deserve. As journalists, we try to keep pace, but the flood of news can sometimes wash away our resolve to revisit stories once they are off the front page. It is a challenge to ensure that important issues are not lost in the noise. I have found myself grappling with this issue more than once. However, we often write long-form pieces on these issues, hoping to provide the depth and context that gets lost in the rush.

One of the first controversies I covered after shifting to Maharashtra was Vedanta Foxconn's decision to open a semiconductor plant in neighbouring Gujarat instead of Maharashtra. The Opposition criticised the Eknath Shinde-led government for its perceived failure. This story dominated the headlines, and journalists were caught in a whirlwind of press conferences, statements, and counter-statements. But as with so many other issues, the noise died down. The media moved on, as did the politicians, leaving behind a trail of unanswered questions.

The latest issue where we journalists lost track of follow-up is the alleged sexual assault of two kindergarten girls in Badlapur. The streets were filled with angry voices demanding justice, and the media played its part. But then, on August 26, a giant statue of the Maratha warrior king Shivaji Maharaj collapsed. The Opposition was quick to pounce, alleging corruption in the statue's construction. The sexual assault case was suddenly overshadowed. This is a stark reminder of how quickly things can change, and how easily the media's attention can be diverted. The role of the Opposition cannot be overstated, as it keeps the government on its toes and, by extension, keeps us journalists on ours.

Amid the cacophony of daily news, some issues refuse to fade away. Whether it is the ongoing battle over reservations for the Maratha community or the perennial debate over development, these stories keep coming back, demanding attention.

We continue to distil through the noise and deliver what matters while waiting – for the next big event, twist, and revelation. This constant churn is exhausting, but it is what makes reporting on Maharashtra's GPS so rewarding.

deshpande.abhinay@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A flight to hope

Greek and Greek Cypriot nationals onboard a Hellenic Air Force C130 as they are evacuated from Lebanon, due to ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and the Israeli forces, in Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday. REUTERS

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1974

Many top smugglers crippled by govt. drive

Madras, Oct. 3: The anti-smuggling crack-down launched by the enforcement agencies has more or less "crippled" some of the top smugglers, and they have lost their "morale" for dealing in contraband gold and other goods, according to Revenue Intelligence authorities here.

Some of the lesser known persons engaged in gold smuggling have lost their heart and expressed their desire to branch off into other legitimate activities, these sources said.

Some of the top smugglers detained under MISA in the South are said to have had an all-India network. Recent raids on residences, godowns, etc., of persons known to be their close associates resulted in a catch of Rs. 70 lakhs worth of primary gold. These men are known to have dealt mainly in smuggled gold from Sri Lanka. The gold from Sri Lanka was mainly melted from ornaments. Some of the seized gold bore the markings "People's Bank of Sri Lanka." The gold brought from Dubai and other areas was smuggled into convenient landing places along the west coast between Kasaragod and Jamnagar and transported to key distribution points like Bangalore, Madras, Madurai, Rajahmundry and Vijayawada.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1924

Government Committee.

Simla, Oct. 3: The Government of India announce through a resolution in the Gazette of India the appointment of two officers to enquire into the question of the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts. Mr. Sachidananda Sinha moved in the old Imperial Council a resolution recommending that a mixed Committee of non-officials and officials be appointed to formulate a scheme for the amalgamation of Oriya-speaking tracts at present administered or controlled by the Governments of Madras, Bengal, and the Central Provinces with the existing Orissa Division of the Province of Bihar and Orissa; and in accordance with the promise then made on behalf of the government, much information on the subject has been collected.

From Page One

Caste segregation in jail violates dignity, says SC

The top court emphasised that "no prison authority enjoys amnesty for unconstitutionality". Degrading labour and oppressive practices violate the right against forced labour under Article 23 of the Constitution.

Prison manuals, by treating members of the denotified and wandering tribes as "born criminals" and habitual offenders, re-affirm colonial caste-based discrimination. The court declared all loose references, not statutorily backed, to 'habitual offenders' in prison manuals as unconstitutional.

Segregation of prisoners on the basis of caste would only work to reinforce caste animosity, the court said. "Segregation would not lead to rehabilitation... Only such classification [of prisoners] that proceeds from an objective inquiry of factors such as work aptitude, accommodation needs, special medical and psychological needs of the prisoner would pass constitutional muster," Chief Justice Chandrachud reasoned.

The judgment declared that compelling marginalised caste inmates to perform tasks like cleaning latrines or sweeping based purely on their caste, constituted a form of coercion.

Prison manuals and rules which relegate tasks like manual scavenging to the lowest castes or refer them to as 'scavenger class' practise untouchability. The court held that the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, which prohibit manual scavenging, has a binding effect in prisons as well.

The court directed the Union government to make the necessary changes to address caste-based discrimination in the 2016 Manual and the 2023 Act within three months.

Pilot project for internships takes off

The portal, pminternship.mca.gov.in, is likely to be opened up for youngsters in the age group of 21 to 24 years to enroll for consideration by companies on Vijaya Dasami, October 12. This window will be open till October 25 for the first batch of internships. Candidates must share and self-certify some data about their educational qualifications and residential pin codes.

Candidates' data will be matched with companies' needs and locations using Artificial Intelligence tools, and a shortlist of candidates will then be generated for companies to consider. "The effort would be to offer internships in the same districts that the candidates reside, or a neighbouring district if that is not possible or will be placed within their own State," an official said.

The scheme is not open to post-graduates, children of regular and permanent employees in the Central or State governments, graduates from premier institutes like IITs, IIMs and NIDs, and professionals with qualifications such as CA, CS, and MBBS. Moreover, anyone from a household that includes a person who earned an income of ₹8 lakh or more in 2023-24, will not be eligible.

Internships under the scheme will be granted to candidates who have passed high school or higher secondary school, possess a certificate from an industrial training institute (ITI), hold a diploma from a polytechnic institute, or are graduates with degrees such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, or B.Pharma. Those unemployed youth enrolled in online or distance learning courses are also eligible to apply, but anyone undergoing any skilling, apprenticeship, internship, or student training programme under a Central or State government scheme will not be allowed to apply.

Jaishankar to meet Dissanayake today

The visit, which is the first since the JVP-led alliance came to power, is expected to focus on the future of Indian projects such as the Trincomalee infrastructure and energy programme; it will also be an opportunity to assess the new government's stance on investment from China

Suhasini Haidar
Meera Srinivasan
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

In a visit expected to set the course for India-Sri Lanka ties, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Colombo on Friday to meet the Sri Lankan "leadership", less than a fortnight after President Anura Kumara Dissanayake was sworn in, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Thursday.

"In keeping with India's Neighbourhood First Policy and SAGAR outlook, the visit underlines the shared commitment of the two countries to further deepen the longstanding partnership for mutual benefit," the MEA said in its statement.

During his day-long visit to Sri Lanka, Mr. Jaishankar will hold talks with the new Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath and is expected to call on Mr. Dissanayake, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya and meet leaders of other parties, depending on his schedule, said officials.

In particular, discussions over the future of Indian projects, including the Trincomalee infrastructure and energy projects, and private investments such as the wind power project of the Adani Group, whose selection process Mr. Dissanayake has questioned, are expected. In addition, the new government's stance on issues of devolution and Tamil rights, which New Delhi has been vocal about in the past, will be watched most closely.

The visit will also be an opportunity to gauge future policies of the newly elected National People's Power [NPP] government – led by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] – in Sri Lanka, which has never held power before, towards investment from China and the access to Chinese military and research vehicles as well as other "dual use" projects, officials said.

Mr. Jaishankar will also be keen to secure Mr. Dissanayake's commitment to visit India at the earliest, but officials said the visit may only take place after the Sri Lankan Parliamentary elections scheduled for November 14 this year.

Building ties: S. Jaishankar with Anura Kumara Dissanayake during the latter's visit to New Delhi in February, 2024. @DrSJaishankar/X

Possibly sensing the 55-year-old leftist leader's growing popularity earlier this year, New Delhi had hosted Mr. Dissanayake in February. Mr. Dissanayake was then an opposition legislator, and his visit that included meetings with Mr. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval drew much attention in the island nation.

Mr. Jaishankar was last in Colombo in June 2024, when he reviewed India-backed energy and connectivity projects with the Ranil Wickremesinghe administration. In New Delhi's first high-level engagement with Mr. Dissanayake after he was sworn in on September 23, the projects are expected to be taken up for review.

Significantly, in the run-up to the polls, Mr. Dissanayake vowed to cancel the controversial Adani power project in northern Sri Lanka. Local environmental groups have already challenged the project at Sri Lanka's Supreme Court, citing environmental concerns.

In an interview to *The Hindu* weeks before the election, Mr. Dissanayake acknowledged the "need to work with India", especially in the energy sector. "We welcome foreign capital, including from the private sector. But all investments should come through a fair tender process," he had said, referring to Adani Green's offer of $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kilowatt-hour. "If the government had gone for a fair tender process, we could have got it for half the price."

Tamil question

Although Mr. Dissanayake's campaign did not explicitly commit to implementing the 13th Amendment, the legislation born out of the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 that assures a measure of power to the provinces, he has committed to holding provincial council elections. Further, he has promised to address the country's long-pending national question through a new Constitution.

Meanwhile, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha met some key Tamil leaders earlier this week and suggested that the Tamil polity stay united to better represent their interests nationally, a Tamil MP present at the meeting told local media. In the presidential elections, Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa secured the highest share of votes in the Tamil-majority areas. Mr. Jha was the first Colombo-based diplomat to meet and wish Mr. Dissanayake soon after he emerged the winner in the presidential race. He was also among diplomats who held talks with the newly elected President on October 2.

Bangladesh recalls its envoy from India

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The interim government of Bangladesh this week transferred Mostafizur Rahman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, back to Dhaka.

Mr. Rahman's transfer was part of a move that included withdrawal of envoys from Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, and the permanent mission of Bangladesh in the Union Nations in New York.

"They have been recalled as part of their retirement process," said the Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumdar at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy, according to state news outlet UNB.

Bangladesh has witnessed widespread administrative changes ever since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5. Ever since, a series of changes have taken place in the police, general administration and judicial divisions.

A source described the transfer as "routine" but maintained that given the nature of the interim government which is being led by a group of advisers, such orders need to be carefully analysed.

According to the official communication, Mr. Rahman has been asked to return without delay to Dhaka. However, Bangladesh is yet to send the name of a new High Commissioner.

A source explained that India and Bangladesh follow normal diplomatic formalities when it comes to appointments in each other's missions and, accordingly, the name that is suggested for the post of High Commissioner is subject to "clearance" from the host country.

Mr. Rahman's departure may render the post of the Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi temporarily vacant.

Journalist bodies pledge to resist attacks on the freedom of media

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A host of journalists' welfare organisations on Thursday resolved to resist in peaceful and democratic forms the "assault" on the freedom of speech and expression of media.

Marking the anniversary of the raid last year on news website *Newsclick*, the Press Club of India, the Delhi Union of Journalists, the Indian Women's Press Corps, Press Association, and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists passed a resolution that said: "The right to life, a fundamental constitutional right, cannot exist without the right to work. The two are inextricably connected".

"We note that the seizure of professional equipment like laptops, phones and computers without following due process and for an indefinite period of time amounts to an attack on livelihood and the right to work without intimidation," the resolution said.

Senior journalists addressing the meeting highlighted the seizure of laptops, mobile phones, and other electronic equipment from journalists during the *Newsclick* raids.

Former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu* N. Ram, in a video message, said, "The military style assault on *Newsclick* marks the lowest point in the media freedom of India since the Emergency of 1975-1977. But this is not essentially the story of a police running riot. It is a political story. The story of an authoritarian regime at war with a medium-sized progressive and Left-oriented digital news network, and the independent, critical and challenging journalism it represents."

Mr. Ram said that the Modi government had conducted "targeted assaults" on freedom of expression, media freedom and independence, and other fundamental rights. "It has used anti-terror, sedition and other draconian laws to incarcerate without bail or trial, and for prolonged periods, journalists, students, human rights defenders, civil society activists and troublesome critics of the government," he said.

> The right to life, a fundamental constitutional right, cannot exist without the right to work
> JOINT RESOLUTION

Online censorship

"This government has made a concerted effort to police and censor the Internet, social media technology platforms that deliver streamed content via Internet connective devices, and digital news providers," Mr. Ram said.

"The campaign to defend media independence and freedom cannot succeed if it is episodic," Mr. Ram said, adding that the bigger challenge of the day was to develop a sustained campaign in a toxic information ecosystem where disinformation and politics of hate ran riot on social media and also in some sections of mainstream media.

"The government has not changed its plan," said Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor of *The Wire*. "The government will try any which way to silence independent media platforms, and of course their preferred routes to lean on are the social media intermediaries."

Senior journalist P. Sainath said that October 3 should be looked upon as "the anniversary of the beginning of a resistance to such arbitrary crackdowns on press freedom".

BJP targets Congress over alleged links with drug haul 'kingpin'; party denies claims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday alleged that a drug haul "kingpin" was the chairperson of the Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress's Right to Information (RTI) cell, a charge dismissed by the Indian Youth Congress as baseless.

The accused, Tushar Goyal, was arrested by the Delhi Police earlier this week in connection with the seizure of drugs worth about ₹5,600 crore.

Addressing a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi quoted a purported appointment letter to say that Mr. Goyal was made the RTI cell chairman of the Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress in March 2022.

The Indian Youth Congress's statement condemned the "baseless" allegations made by Mr. Trivedi. "He falsely claimed that Tushar Goyal is the alleged chairman of Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress RTI Cell," it said, adding that Mr. Goyal had been expelled from the organisation on October 17, 2022 due to anti-party activities, and had not been associated with the Congress since then.

The Indian Youth Congress's statement condemned the 'baseless' allegations made by Trivedi

"In fact, as per media reports alleged Tushar Goyal himself confessed to the police that he was a former chairman of Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress RTI Cell in 2021-22 but left the organisation afterwards. The BJP is attempting to tarnish the image of the Congress party and its leaders using false information," the statement said.

"... rather than spreading half-baked political stories, the BJP should trust the Delhi Police to investigate and uncover the truth," the Indian Youth Congress said.

However, raising questions over the money connected to the drug seizure, Mr. Trivedi earlier said the agencies had purportedly found the number of Congress leader Deepender Hooda in the mobile phone of the accused.

One more arrested

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police have arrested another man, who was residing in the United Kingdom for some time now.

The accused, identified as Jassi, is reported to have played an important role in the drug cartel.

So far, five persons have been arrested in the case.

Wangchuk kept restricted to guest house, but Union govt. tells HC he is not detained

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The movements of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk continued to be restricted by police and security agencies for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday despite the Union Government informing the Delhi High Court that he has been released from detention.

On Thursday around 5 p.m., Mr. Wangchuk was stopped by security personnel from leaving the Ladakh Bhavan. A huge police contingent was deployed outside the government guest house and barricades were placed at the entrance.

Mr. Wangchuk, who led a march of around 150 people from Ladakh on September 1 to demand constitutional safeguards for the region, was detained by Delhi Police after reaching the Delhi-Haryana border at Singhu on September 30. As per the scheduled plan, the march was to culminate on October 2 at Rajghat.

Sonam Wangchuk

On Wednesday, Mr. Wangchuk and other members of the delegation, after remaining in detention for almost 40 hours, were taken to Rajghat under heavy police presence.

Ladakh Member of Parliament Mohmad Haneefa told *The Hindu* that talks were on with Union Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure Mr. Wangchuk's free movement. The MP said that he has received an assurance from the Union Government that they will get a hearing from either the Prime Minister or the Home Minister.

Orders withdrawn

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that Mr. Wangchuk and his associates have been released from detention.

He told the court that the Delhi Police has withdrawn an order prohibiting assembly and protests in various parts of Delhi.

Mr. Mehta made the statement before a Bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, which was hearing petitions seeking the release of Mr. Wangchuk and his associates.

(With inputs from Rocky Singh)

Bangladesh's border guards arrest 2 Indians

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Two Bangladeshis were arrested by the Border Security Force (BSF) for entering Indian territory on Wednesday, hours before two Indians were arrested by Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) at the same Kakmarichar border outpost on the international border, albeit on the other side.

Local residents in the Sagarpara police station area of West Bengal's Murshidabad district described the BGB's action as a retaliation for the BSF's arrests of the Bangladeshis, though a senior BSF official said that the successive events may simply be a coincidence.

"The Indian nationals Ainul Haque and Soebnobi Sheikh have not been arrested but kidnapped by BGB well inside the territory of India," said Julfikar Ali, secretary of Border Development Committee in Sagarpara.

Mr. Ali has lodged a police complaint at Sagarpara Police station about the arrest of the two Indians.

APPEAL

Master Varshith Menon.V son of V.R. Venkatesan 10 years admitted in Christian Medical College is diagnosed to have acute Myeloid Leukemia. This is a type of blood cancer. The treatment option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of Haploidentical Transplant at our center will come to approximately **Rs. 25,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Varshith Menon.V. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Hours after seeking votes for the BJP, SC leader joins Congress

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Rahul Gandhi with Ashok Tanwar on Thursday. PTI

Former Sirsa MP Ashok Tanwar, a prominent Scheduled Caste leader in Haryana, on Thursday quit the Bharatiya Janata Party to return to the Congress after five years, switching for the fourth time in four years. He had left the Congress before the Assembly election in 2019 owing to his differences with former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Mr. Tanwar, referring to the circumstances under which he had quit the Congress, said, "Let bygones be bygones," adding that he never felt at home in the BJP.

The return of Mr. Tanwar to the Congress just two days before polling assumes significance, with all political parties and alliances in the State vying for the all-important SC vote bank, which is around 20% of the total electorate. Mr. Tanwar's 'homecoming' is expected to mitigate the damage caused by the party's Sirsa MP Kumari Selja "sulking" over ticket distribution, sending wrong signals to her community. The Opposition party had been at the receiving end over the Selja episode, with rival parties attempting to label the Congress as "anti-Dalit".

Mr. Tanwar, who was campaigning for the BJP at Safidon in the morning, joined the Congress a few hours later in the presence of Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Mahendragarh.

Soon after Mr. Gandhi finished his address, an announcement was made asking the gathering to wait for a "homecoming", and Mr. Tanwar appeared on the dais.

The timing and the place of Mr. Tanwar, a known Hooda *bete noire*, joining the Congress, had a subtle message for the Hooda camp, with the party high command asserting its authority and trying to balance the power equations in the State unit, said political analysts.

Mr. Tanwar had contested the Lok Sabha election from Sirsa on BJP ticket after he joined it in January, but he lost to Ms. Selja by over two lakh votes.

Haryana goes to the polls tomorrow; campaign ends

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says State will not accept Congress's 'divisive and negative' politics; Rahul Gandhi accuses the ruling BJP of crony capitalism and trying to destroy the Constitution

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

All ears: Congress supporters listen to Rahul Gandhi during the party's Haryana Vijay Sankalp Jansabha in Nuh on Thursday. PTI

Leaders of major political parties in Haryana held a series of rallies, roadshows, and *nukkad sabhas* (street-corner meetings) across the State before campaigning for the election to the 90-member Haryana Assembly ended on Thursday. The State will vote on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a string of messages on X, said he had travelled across the State over the past few days and was sure that the people would again bless the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The patriotic people of Haryana would never accept the Congress' divisive and negative politics," he said, reiterating allegations of corruption, caste politics, communalism, and nepotism against the Congress.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too addressed rallies in Kalayat and Safidon.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi addressed meetings at Nuh and Mahendragarh in south Haryana during the day, accusing the BJP of crony capitalism and trying to destroy the Constitution. He also reiterated the Congress's promises of providing two lakh government jobs and guaranteed minimum support price for crops. Saying that the BJP was losing and the Congress winning, Mr. Rahul appealed to all communities for support.

Slew of promises

Leading the Congress's campaign, Mr. Gandhi has addressed more than half-a-dozen rallies and roadshows across the State, attacking the BJP over unemployment and rising prices. The Congress has announced seven guarantees, including ₹2,000 monthly assistance to women and cooking cylinders for ₹500.

The ruling BJP, on the other hand, built its campaign around the alleged corruption during the previous Congress rule, with Mr. Modi, who addressed four rallies, labelling it the most "dishonest and deceitful" party. Seeking votes for jobs-on-merit and infrastructure development during its rule, the BJP, too, came out with a 72-page manifesto making 20 major promises.

With an eye on the Scheduled Caste vote, which is around 20% of the total electorate, the Congress and the BJP have accused each other of being "anti-Dalit" and "anti-Constitution".

A total of 1,031 candidates, including 101 women, are in fray in the high-stakes election, with the Congress and the BJP both contesting 89 seats each. While the Congress has left the Bhiwani seat for the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the BJP withdrew its Sirsa candidate, Rohtash Jangra, extending support to the Haryana Lokhit Party candidate, Gopal Kanda.

The two Chautala-led regional parties, the Jannayak Janta Party and the Indian National Lok Dal, have tied up with Azad Samaj Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, respectively catering to the Jat-SC vote bank, which is together around 40% of the total electorate.

The Aam Aadmi Party, which had fought the Lok Sabha election in an alliance with the Congress party, has fielded 89 candidates after talks for a coalition between the two parties for the Assembly elections failed purportedly due to differences over number and choice of Assembly seats.

INBRIEF

Mayawati slams U.P. govt. over Hathras stampede chargesheet

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Thursday targeted the Uttar Pradesh government over the exclusion of self-proclaimed godman Surajpal alias Bhole Baba's name from the 3,200-page chargesheet filed by the police in the Hathras stampede case. The BSP leader alleged the exclusion of godman from the list of 11 accused meant he enjoyed the patronage of the State government. The police named 11 accused in connection with the stampede that claimed 121 lives on July 2, leaving out Surajpal. "The exclusion of Surajpal Singh alias Bhole Baba's name in the chargesheet... is anti-people politics," wrote Ms. Mayawati on X.

Gujarat Cong. asks Centre and State to aid diamond workers

Gujarat Congress on Thursday sought the intervention of the Centre and the State government to help lakhs of diamond workers amid the "unprecedented crisis" of joblessness and reduced wages. At a press conference, Gujarat Congress chief and Rajya Sabha member Shaktisinh Gohil said, "Surat's diamond industry is facing an unprecedented crisis as G7 countries banned Russian diamonds, which are imported in India for cutting and polishing and are exported in the Western markets as well as China, UAE and Hong Kong." He added that most of the rough diamonds are mined in Russia. "Many diamond workers have lost their jobs with some of them also ending their lives," he said.

USCIRF flags India's 'collapsing religious freedom'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), a Washington DC-based bipartisan U.S. federal government agency, has released a country update on India, flagging "collapsing religious freedom conditions".

The report highlights that religious freedom conditions have "continued to worsen throughout 2024, particularly in the months prior to and immediately following the country's national elections". Offering an overview of the various religious freedom violations that took place in 2024, it details changes in legal framework, including the strengthening of "discriminatory legislation like state-level anti-conversion and anti-terrorism laws", as well as the publication of the rules for implementing the 2019 Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), and the passing of a State-level Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in Uttarakhand.

Ram temple issue

In a section titled "Expropriation and demolition of places of worship and Muslim property", the report notes "since the beginning of 2024, Indian authorities have facilitated the expropriation of places of worship, including the construction of Hindu temples on the sites of mosques". It details how the days following the Ayodhya temple's January 2024 consecration "were marked by a series of attacks and other instances of intolerance against religious minorities across six states", noting, "in each instance, violence erupted following Hindu nationalist processions through predominantly Muslim neighbourhoods".

The report notes the trend of authorities using State-level policies, especially anti-conversion laws, "to target religious minorities", detailing that "since the beginning of the year, authorities have arrested dozens of Christians on allegations of conducting or participating in forced conversions".

It also flags the phenomenon of anti-cow slaughter laws being "frequently exploited" by vigilante groups to "target religious minorities, including Muslims, Christians, and Dalits", noting that the perpetrators operate with impunity, rarely face punishment and "are often released on bail within 24 hours".

The USCIRF also recommended that the U.S. State Department designate India "as a Country of Particular Concern" for "engaging in severe religious freedom violations".

'Biased organisation, malicious report'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom should utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the U.S.

"Our views on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom are well known. It is a biased organisation with a political agenda," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"It continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF further," he added.

Mr. Jaiswal was responding to queries on the report.

"We would urge USCIRF to desist from such agenda-driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States," he said.

2 abducted by extremists in Manipur released unharmed

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Two Meitei youth allegedly abducted by Kuki extremists on September 27 were released unharmed early on Thursday morning.

Their release coincided with the release of 11 Kuki prisoners from the Sajiwa jail on the outskirts of the State's capital, Imphal. It was one of several preconditions set by the abductors although the police claimed they were kept in prison despite securing bail because of the conflict situation.

"The two young men abducted in Kangpokpi on 27th September, 2024 have been safely brought back to the custody of @manipur_police. I sincerely appreciate everyone from both the state and central government who worked tirelessly to ensure their safe return. Your efforts are deeply valued," Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh posted on social media platform X.

Earlier, the State government sent Director-General of Police Rajiv Singh to the Kangpokpi district to negotiate with Kuki leaders to secure the release of the two youths who strayed into a Kuki-dominated area.

They were among three who went missing on Friday after they left their homes in Thoubal district on a two-wheeler to take part in an Army recruitment rally at New Keithelmanbi in the Imphal West district. Ningombam Johnson Singh was released on the same day by the abductors but Oinam Thoithoi Singh and Thokchom Thoithoiba Singh were held hostage.

Arms looted

A mob looted 21 firearms from the Ukhrul police station after the exchange of gunfire between residents of Hungpung and Hunphun villages adjoining Ukhrul town on Wednesday. The gunfight was over a land dispute between the people of the two villages. Ukhrul is about 80 km northeast of Imphal.

A police official said the mob decamped with eight 9 mm pistols, six INSAS rifles, three AK-47 automatic rifles, two 9 mm carbines, a self-loading rifle, and a Sten gun. The mob also looted 981 rounds of ammunition. The incident took place close to midnight on Wednesday.

Trinamool leader held for financial irregularities

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested Ashish Kumar Pandey, a doctor and leader of the student wing of Trinamool Congress, in connection with alleged financial irregularities at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The financial irregularities came to the fore after the rape and murder of a doctor at the State-run health facility on August 9.

The CBI had earlier arrested four persons, including Sandip Kumar Ghosh, the former principal of the college.

Dr. Pandey was earlier questioned by the agency in connection with the financial irregularities. The allegations of financial regularities were made by Akhtar Ali, former deputy superintendent of the hospital.

The CBI is also investigating the rape and murder of the doctor and one person, Sanjay Roy, a civic police volunteer, had been arrested. Mr. Ghosh and Abhijit Mondal, former officer-in-charge of the Tala police station, were arrested on charges of tampering with evidence in this case. The Calcutta High Court had handed over the investigation on the financial irregularities to the CBI.

The resident doctors of the hospital on October 1 declared a cease-work strike as their demands for ensuring safety and security had allegedly been unmet by the State government.

Prior to this, the junior doctors had observed a 42-day strike, which was partially called off on September 21 after a series of meetings with the State government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal Health Department has received numerous complaints regarding the prevailing "threat culture and irregularities in the examination system" at various government hospitals and medical colleges following the R.G. Kar Hospital incident.

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RFP for "Selection of Event Management Agency for International Symposium on Shree Anna and Forgotten Foods (ISSF)"

IMAGE invites RFP for **"Selection of Event Management Agency for International Symposium on Shree Anna and Forgotten Foods (ISSF)"**.The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from the website **www.agri.odisha.gov.in** from **dt.03.10.2024**. The last date for submitting the RFP documents along with Bid Processing Fees of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only in favour of Director, IMAGE payable at Bhubaneswar through Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier on or before **dt.23.10.2024 up to 04.00 PM**. The Technical Bids will be opened on **dt.24.10.2024 at 11.30 AM**. The opening of Financial Bids will be intimated later on. IMAGE reserves the right to accept or Reject any/ all proposals/ terminate the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

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The Superintending Engineer (Parli Circle) on behalf of MSETCL (the Employer) invites online bids (SRM E-Tender) from reputed & registered Electrical Contractors on Mahatransco E-Tendering Website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in** for following work

Sr. No.	Particular of Works	SRM E-Tender No.	SRM E-Tender RFx No.
01	Work of replacement of existing conductor along with hardware by High performance conductor (HPC) of EHV Line 132kv Rajpimpri Paithan and strengthening of associated line end bays for RE Power evacuation under Green Energy corridor (GEC) under CSN Zone. High Performance Conductor (HPC) under Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Zone.	SE/EHVC/PV/ TS/2024- 25/ T-18	7000033189

For further details visit our Website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in.**
Contact Person: The Executive Engineer (O): Phone No. (02446)222076.
The undersigned reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

S/d
Superintending Engineer, EHV (O&M) Circle, Parli-V.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/17/2024 Date : 27.09.2024

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the Procurement of Drugs for NVHCP for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/NVHCP Drugs/RT/2024/ 018 dtd. 27.09.2024	NVHCP Drugs	06

The last date and time of online uploading of tender will be 09.10.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 14.10.2024 11.30 am. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. **(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR** (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

Biennial air show Aero India to be held in February

The next edition of Aero India, the biennial air show, will be held in Bengaluru from February 10 to 14, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday. "Get ready for Asia's Biggest Air Show! Aero India 2025 is coming your way! Save the dates: February 10 to 14, 2025. Location: Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka," the official Aero India handle posted on X.

Hindu outfit chief detained for removing Sai Baba statues

The chief of Sanatan Rakshak Dal, a local outfit, which was running a campaign for removal of statues of Sai Baba from temples in Varanasi, has been detained for breach of peace, the police said on Thursday. Ajay Sharma was detained on Wednesday night after his outfit removed Sai Baba statues from many temples here on Tuesday. PTI

Suspected rail sabotage: Jharkhand Police file FIR

The Jharkhand Police on Wednesday night filed an FIR against unknown people after the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) lodged a complaint over suspected attempt to derail a coal rake. The possible sabotage was spotted near Farakka in the Gututhola area of Ranga village near Barhait station.

SC slams air pollution panel for failing to stop stubble burning

Top court calls out Punjab and Haryana governments for recovering only nominal compensation from farmers who indulge in stubble burning

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday criticised the Commission for Air Quality Management for its inability to prevent incidents of stubble burning in the National Capital Region and its adjoining areas.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the CAQM, vehemently argued that the body had been working hard to rein in air pollution.

Ms. Bhati said the commission had issued 83 statutory directions and 15 advisories besides various orders, guidelines and official communications from time to time, targeting each of the identified sectors.

Pointing out that they had shied away from taking penal action against violators, the court blamed the Punjab and Haryana governments for doing nothing more than recovering nominal compensation from the farmers who indulge in stubble burning.

A farmer burns straw stubble after a harvest in a paddy field on the outskirts of Amritsar in Punjab. FILE PHOTO

The court highlighted that there were 29 cases of stubble burning detected in Punjab and 81 in Haryana in 15 days from September 15 to September 30. All the States have done was to recover nominal compensation from 40 to 45 farmers.

Perusing an affidavit filed by CAQM chairperson, the court referred to the body's sub-committee on safeguarding and enforcement. "The last meeting of the sub-committee was held on August 29, 2024 in which there was not even discussion of the implementation of directions. Though there is a specific direction in the order to prosecute wrongdoers under Section 15 of Environment Protection Act, not a single prosecution has been launched," the Bench noted.

The Bench directed the Punjab and Haryana governments to file affidavits within a week on the implementation of the directions. The case has been posted for next hearing on October 16.

Marital relations must be exempt from rape provisions: Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that punishing non-consensual sexual acts by a man with his own wife as rape will impact the conjugal relationship and lead to "serious disturbances" in the institution of marriage.

"The demographics of a marriage are *sui generis*. There are plenty of examples of male-female relationships. However, the relationship between a husband and wife, which emerges as a result of the tying of the matrimonial knot, is distinct from all of these relationships. To ignore or even to seek to undermine this is to ignore plain reality," it argued.

The Union government was responding to a bunch of public interest litigation petitions seeking to strike down Exception 2 of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The provision excludes non-consensual sexual intercourse by a husband with his wife, if the latter is over 15 years of age, from the definition of rape.

"In an institution of marriage, there exists a continuing expectation, by either of the spouse, to have reasonable sexual access from the other. Though these expectations do not entitle the husband to coerce or force his wife into sex, against her or his will, they constitute a sufficient basis for the legislature to distinguish qualitatively between an incident of non-consensual sex within the marital sphere and without it," the affidavit filed through the Ministry of Home Affairs reasoned.

The government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said it was reasonable to exempt the relationship of marriage from "drastic penal and procedural rigours" of the rape provisions of the IPC.

'Excessively harsh'

"A husband certainly does not have any fundamental right to violate the consent of his wife. However, attracting the crime in the nature 'rape' as recognised in India to the institution of marriage can be arguably considered to be excessively harsh and therefore, disproportionate," the government said.

It reasoned that marriage did not "obliterate" a woman's consent. It agreed that any violation of a woman's consent should indeed result in penal consequences. But there were other provisions in the law to protect her consent within marriage.

Marathi, four more languages get classical tag

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit.

The demand for classical status for Marathi has been pending since 2013 and the approval comes just ahead of the Assembly election in Maharashtra. The approval for Bengali comes amid Durga Puja, the biggest festival in West Bengal.

India has had six classical languages till now – Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Sanskrit, and Odia. Tamil was the first language to be given classical status in 2004, followed by Sanskrit in 2005.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X to congratulate all speakers of the newly designated classical languages.

"Marathi is India's pride. Congratulations on this phenomenal language being accorded the status of a Classical Language. This honour acknowledges the rich cultural contribution of Marathi in our nation's history," he said.

"Bengali literature has inspired countless people for years. I congratulate all the Bengali speakers all over the world on this," the Prime Minister added.

All agri sector initiatives brought under 2 new schemes; States to implement them

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday decided to merge all Central schemes in the agriculture sector into two new schemes, Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY). With a projected expenditure of ₹1,01,321.61 crore, the schemes will have a Central share of ₹69,088.98 crore and the States will have to add the remaining ₹32,232.63 crore.

The PM-RKVY, with an allocation of ₹57,074.72 crore, is aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and the KY will address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency, with a fund of ₹44,246.89 crore. Both schemes will be implemented through the State governments.

The Centre said the rationalisation of various schemes was to avoid duplication, ensure convergence, and provide flexibility to States.

Focusing on emergent challenges of agriculture such as nutrition security, sustainability, climate resilience, value chain development, and private sector participation is also envisaged under the two schemes.

"State governments will be able to draw a comprehensive strategic plan suiting their requirements for agriculture sector. Annual Action Plan (AAP) of States can be approved in one go rather than approving them individually," the Centre said.

Schemes such as Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, Agro Forestry, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana will be merged in the two new schemes.

Mission for edible oils

The Cabinet also approved the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), for boosting domestic oilseed production and achieving self-reliance in edible oils.

"The Mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31, with a financial outlay of ₹10,103 crore. The newly approved NMEO-Oilseeds will focus on enhancing the production of key primary oilseed crops such as rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesamum, as well as increasing collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources like cottonseed, rice bran, and tree borne oils," the Centre said. The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.

India to join energy hub

The Cabinet also approved the signing of a letter of intent enabling India to join the Energy Efficiency Hub. "This move solidifies India's commitment to sustainable development and aligns with its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," the Centre said.

The Union Cabinet also approved payment of productivity-linked bonus of 78 days for ₹2,028.57 crore to 11,72,240 non-gazetted railway employees. The amount will be paid to various categories of railway staff like track maintainers, loco pilots, train managers, station masters, supervisors, technicians, ministerial staff and other Group C staff.

Indian push needed to end AIDS as a global health threat by 2030: UNAIDS

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Without India doing a large part of the heavy lifting, it is unlikely that the world will meet the Sustainable Development Goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, said Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS director for the Asia Pacific and other regions, in a written interview with *The Hindu*.

Noting that India has demonstrated high commitment and positive results in the last decades, he said that annual new HIV infections had fallen 44% between 2010 and 2023, better than the global average. However, HIV prevention efforts will need to be accelerated if India is to close the gap with a focus on specific States and districts, he said.

Eamonn Murphy

The UNAIDS director emphasised that the next five years would be critical for the country to accelerate efforts and share its experience with other countries in the region.

'Prevention is key'

Dr. Murphy, who was recently in India to discuss the challenges in HIV prevention with the Union government and other stakeholders, said that planning for long-term sustainability beyond 2030 was crucial to preserving the gains made and ensuring that the impact is durable and transformative.

"To achieve the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, we must not only diagnose and successfully treat people living with HIV but also dramatically lower new infections. Prevention is key. Every new infection means a person requires treatment for life. So, for a sustainable HIV response we must focus more on prevention," he said.

"We must also ensure that there are sustainable health systems for HIV and health which are co-designed and co-implemented by communities and civil society so they respond to people's needs," he added.

Dr. Murphy noted that last year, there were 68,000 new infections in India, meaning that around 185 people were infected every day.

"The global AIDS strategy calls for 80% of prevention services to be delivered by community-led organisations that are best placed to reach key populations. These organisations need the right space and resources to lead," he said.

New treatments

India has made notable progress in reducing annual AIDS-related deaths by nearly 80% between 2010 and 2023, which is also above the global average, he said.

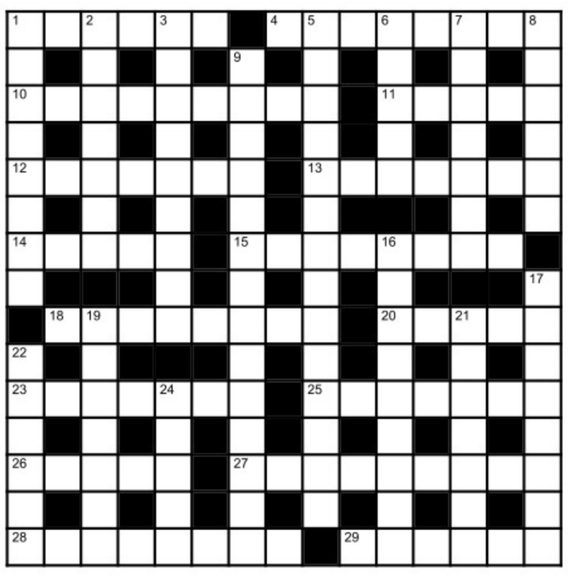
UNAIDS is currently advocating for new technologies, including long-acting injectables, to reach all patients at affordable prices, he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14297

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Finally, petition followed (6)
4 Debated about protecting a waster (8)
10 Busy? Get me out and do as you please (2,2,5)
11 Idea of you formally getting married (5)
12 African country follows plan, well done! (3,2,2)
13 Butter a bit, get a secure place (7)
14 Tragic send-off forces out joints (5)
15 Two of them combined to protect eastern border, it's a big thing (8)
18 Finished cutting the rope and isolated (8)
20 Leading lady in game set to shine (5)
23 Charge with gunners in a ring at sea (7)
25 Firm at grabbing union territory (7)
26 Synchronized to come back and resign (5)
27 This animal roamed all over the place in arid surroundings (9)
28 Democrat wearing crazy coloured pieces of cloth round his neck (8)
29 Pastry without sugar at the top - leave it (6)

Down

1 Pushing below frantically in gravity (8)
2 Maybe someday get this breed of dog (7)
3 Big in France, English finally are preoccupied (9)
5 Come in with the pull over for the movie (5,3,6)
6 Mother protecting, thank you after vacating the base (5)
7 Stylish and neat way to cover a stump (7)
8 Score - after he left they went in (6)
9 Altered Gene sequences - used tonic brand name (11,3)
16 Mary somehow managed to bring in the French (9)
17 Building stately homes, don't lose the stone (8)
19 Some ran away as they had a row (7)
21 Issue as the man ate some of it (7)
22 Degree from Cambridge, able to get Bill's support (6)
24 Ones leaving from one country to another country (5)

SUDOKU

			8		4	5		
8				6			9	
		5		3		1		
7	8				6	2		5
9		6	5				4	1
		8		1		4		
	1			5				7
		3	4		8			

No.SS6300 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

O	M	L	S	C	A	I	A
P	R	O	P	A	N	E	A	R	S	E	N	A	L
E	N	C	A	N	T	S	M
R	E	A	R	E	N	D	I	S	R	A	E	L	I
O	C	O	S	I	C	G
N	E	O	N	L	I	G	H	T	N	O	R	T	H
A	E	G	E	T
S	O	L	I	C	I	T	R	E	E	N	T	R	Y
T	A	U	I	N
R	A	M	P	S	N	E	A	R	T	H	I	N	G
U	E	T	C	D	S	U
M	I	N	A	R	E	T	A	F	F	R	O	N	T
P	T	I	U	P	L	L	T
E	L	E	A	N	O	R	T	R	U	N	D	L	E
T	D	E	E	S	X	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	5	2	6	8	7	4
8	2	7	9	4	3	6	1	5
6	4	5	1	7	8	9	3	2
9	1	8	6	3	2	5	4	7
7	6	2	8	5	4	1	9	3
3	5	4	7	9	1	2	8	6
2	8	1	4	6	7	3	5	9
5	7	6	3	1	9	4	2	8
4	9	3	2	8	5	7	6	1

FAITH

Controlling the mind

The way the mind goes, the faculties will follow the same. Mind is fickle and ever-oscillating. It is an arch deceiver regarded as troublesome and treacherous until a person has reasonably advanced to conduct religious practice. Mind should not be allowed to stray and should always be brought under control. Men of wisdom have given guidelines to enable sincere persons to be cautious about its deception. Impurity of mind has to be eschewed if a person is to progress in virtue.

Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman said in a discourse that we should not boast of ourselves by giving self-certification and saying that we are pure-minded. Only others should declare by judging us. Tiruvalluvar says water is the agent for external cleanliness, and inner cleanliness comes with the truth that the soul enlightens (*puranthooimai* – Kural-298). One fundamental impediment to controlling our minds is that we should not develop jealousy and hatred towards others. Virtue is found in the spotless mind, not in pomp and show. (*Manathukkan masilan* – Kural-34) Thirumoolar says the mind is the abode, the body is the place of union, the mouth is the entrance, the soul is the Sivalinga, and all the senses are the lamps. In the Ramayana, Sri Sita says that the root cause of all our suffering is the mind and faculties, which should be guarded well.

INBRIEF

M&M introduces Thar ROXX sport utility vehicle at ₹13 lakh

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) on Thursday said its newly-introduced Thar ROXX, a 5-door SUV, had logged 1,76,218 bookings within 60 minutes of launch. Deliveries will commence on *Dasara*. The vehicle is priced from ₹12.99 lakh to ₹22.49 lakh (ex-showroom) "As deliveries begin, Mahindra will inform customers about tentative delivery schedules. Bookings remain open at all authorised Mahindra dealerships and Mahindra website," M&M said.

Reliance Power set to raise $500 million via FCCBs

The board of Reliance Power Ltd. approved raising of up to $500 million (₹4,198 crore) via ultra-low interest (5% per annum) 10-year long-tenured unsecured Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs). The FCCBs will be issued to affiliates of Varde Investment Partners, LP, a leading global alternative investment firm, Reliance Power said in a filing. The board also approved an employees' stock option scheme for all staff of the company and subsidiaries.

Godrej & Boyce buys storage solutions firm Armes Maini

The storage solutions business of Godrej & Boyce on Thursday announced the acquisition of Armes Maini, a Bengaluru-based maker of storage shelving systems and mezzanine structures for an unspecified amount. The acquisition includes a manufacturing facility on the outskirts of Bengaluru with capacity of 20,000 tonne per annum and spanning more than 1,50,000 square feet. This facility will raise capacity for shelving solutions by about 35%, the company said.

SC lays down 'functionality', 'essentially' test to claim ITC

Procurement of goods or services must be directly essential to business operations, and inputs must be functionally integral to the performance or output to qualify for input tax credit, it says

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declared that real estate companies can claim Input Tax Credits (ITC) under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, on costs of construction for commercial structures intended for renting or leasing purposes.

The judgment would give a fillip to the real estate sector. "If a building qualifies to be a plant, ITC can be availed against the supply of services in the form of renting or leasing the building or premises, provided the other terms and conditions of the CGST Act and Rules framed are fulfilled," Justice Oka held.

The court, however, noted that if the construction of a building by the recipient of service was for his own use, the "chain would break and ITC would not be available".

"Under the CGST Act, renting or leasing immovable property is deemed to be a supply of service, and it can be taxed as output supply. Therefore, if the building in which the premises are situated qualifies for the definition of plant, ITC can be allowed on goods and services used in setting up the immovable property, which is a plant," Justice Oka reasoned.

The court said the question whether or not a mall, warehouse or any building other than a hotel or a cinema theatre could be classified as a 'plant' within the meaning of the expression "plant or machinery" in Section 17(5)(d) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 was a factual question.

This has to be determined keeping in mind the business of the registered person and the role that building plays in the business. "Functionality test will have to be applied to decide whether a building is a plant," the judgment noted.

'Unsecured business loans show early asset-quality stress'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Rise in delinquency levels were observed both in brick and mortar NBFCs and fintech lenders

Unsecured business loans showed early signs of stress in terms of asset quality on higher leveraging of borrowers and increased write-offs, as per an India Ratings research note on October 3.

"Post the MFI segment, early signs of stress are visible in the unsecured business loan segment with an increase in credit costs and higher-than-expected write-offs. On-field attrition, pressure in certain end-borrower segments and overleveraging of borrowers are the factors that have contributed to this asset quality pressure" said Karan Gupta, Head and Director Financial Institutions, Ind-Ra, wrote.

The rise in delinquency levels were observed both in brick and mortar Non Banking Finance Corporations (NBFCs) and fin-tech lenders, the rating agency noted. A growth in pent-up demand after COVID-19 pandemic led to increased orders. This led to companies borrowing to meet working capital requirements. A moderation from that level of consumption has increased the delinquencies, Ind-Ra noted.

Rise in stress has made lenders more conservative leading to stagnant growth in Assets Under Management in Q1FY25 against Q1FY24 when growth was almost 50%. Ind-Ra, however, said the situation is still not alarming as leverage is at reasonable levels. Capital buffers are reasonable for NBFCs.

Tata's fire-hit Hosur plant to restart some operations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Electronics said on Thursday it plans to restart some operations at the fire-hit plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, where it manufactures iPhone components.

"We plan to restart work in many areas of the facility today. And as we work toward resuming full operations, all our team members will continue to receive full pay," a company spokesperson said, adding "the safety of employees is always our top priority."

Sensex, Nifty fall more than 2% on war fears, curbs on F&O trading

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Equity market indices on Thursday plunged more than 2%, their worst decline in about two months.

Analysts attributed the decline to weak global sentiment amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and concerns over reduced trading volumes following the new regulations by SEBI for the Futures and Options (F&O) segment.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 1,769.19 points, or 2.10%, to 82,497 points. The fall in Sensex was led by L&T (-4.18%), Axis Bank (-4.12%), Tata Motors (-4.08%), Reliance (-3.91%), Maruti (-3.90%) and Asian Paints (-3.88%). JSW Steel was the only gainer.

The NSE Nifty-50 index, too, fell 546.80 points, or 2.12%, to 25,250.10. Ameya Ranadive, senior technical analyst, StoxBox, said the fall was driven by a weak global sentiment amid escalating geopolitical tensions and disappointing domestic data, including lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections and slowing factory activity.

"Traders reacted to the government's appointment of three new external members to the RBI's MPC and the new SEBI rules to curb speculative trading in derivatives," he added.

The broader indices mirrorred the trend and technical analysts believe bears have the upper hand after the 1,000 points drop in Nifty 50 in four sessions.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,497	-2.10
US Dollar	83.96	-0.16
Gold	78,300	0.25
Brent oil	77.11	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3116.00	-70.10
Adani Ports	1425.20	-42.30
Apollo Hosp	6905.95	-247.40
Asian Paints	3149.30	-128.05
Axis Bank	1175.70	-50.95
Bajaj Auto	11806.45	-351.00
Bajaj Finserv	1913.40	-61.85
Bajaj Finance	7433.85	-269.15
Bharat Elec	278.70	-5.25
Bharti Airtel	1673.45	-25.25
BPCL	348.85	-19.40
Britannia Ind	6331.75	-114.30
Cipla	1656.55	-8.30
Coal India	502.35	-6.15
Dr Reddys Lab	6735.65	-13.45
Eicher Motors	4782.50	-190.15
Grasim Ind	2766.15	-35.00
HCL Tech	1778.55	-37.95
HDFC Bank	1682.00	-44.20
HDFC Life	702.25	-7.95
Hero MotoCorp	5662.75	-87.35
Hindalco	747.10	-14.45
Hind Unilever	2893.35	-30.40
ICICI Bank	1256.35	-18.05
IndusInd Bank	1387.75	-21.95
Infosys	1893.40	-10.95
ITC	512.75	-3.45
JSW Steel	1039.10	11.80
Kotak Bank	1822.80	-56.60
L&T	3497.65	-155.85
M&M	3129.85	-35.65
Maruti Suzuki	12647.35	-518.65
NestleIndia	2674.85	-32.20
NTPC	435.35	-4.75
ONGC	292.05	0.10
PowerGrid Corp	344.15	-6.65
Reliance Ind	2813.95	-115.70
SBI Life	1805.55	-28.65
State Bank	794.10	-2.85
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3409.50	-160.90
Sun Pharma	1910.85	-9.10
TataConsumerProduct	1152.75	-43.50
Tata Motors	925.70	-39.50
Tata Steel	166.98	-0.05
TCS	4232.75	-55.15
Tech Mahindra	1604.05	-21.35
Titan	3674.95	-101.00
Trent Ltd.	7487.90	-124.80
UltraTech Cement	11724.80	-112.35
Wipro	530.15	-16.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.77	84.09
Euro	92.46	92.82
British Pound	109.86	110.28
Japanese Yen (100)	57.04	57.26
Chinese Yuan	11.93	11.98
Swiss Franc	98.49	98.87
Singapore Dollar	64.58	64.84
Canadian Dollar	61.91	62.15
Malaysian Ringitt	19.83	19.93
Australian Dollar	57.34	57.57

Source:Indian Bank

EU offers to extend deadline to enforce deforestation rule

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Giving relief to exporters of certain products, the European Commission (EC) on Wednesday proposed to extend the implementation of its deforestation regulation by a year.

Think tank GTRI said on Thursday large companies are now required to comply by December 30, 2025, and small and micro-enterprises by June 30, 2026.

Major agriculture-exporting countries, including Brazil, India, Indonesia and the U.S., raised objections to the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

"The Commission also proposes to give concerned parties additional time to prepare. If approved by the European Parliament and the Council, it would make the law applicable on December 30, 2025, for large companies and June 30, 2026, for micro- and small enterprises," the EC said in a press release on Wednesday.

The EUDR was adopted on May 16, 2023, and seeks to prevent the import of specified goods contributing to deforestation and forest degradation on the EU market.

The products covered include coffee, leather, oil cake, wood furniture, paper, and paperboard. There are plans to expand the product list further.

TI Clean Mobility plans slew of EV offerings before year-end

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Murugappa Group firm TI Clean Mobility (TICMPL), which owns the Montra Electric brand, is planning to unveil a couple of electric vehicles (EVs) and triple the number of dealerships in the next few months to offer eco-friendly mobility solutions, said a top company executive.

"Before this year end, we will be launching Montra Super Auto (cargo version) and e-rickshaw (L3)," said chief operating officer Anurag Vohra.

This will be followed by the unveiling of e-tractors and e-small commercial vehicles before March 2024, he said.

Anurag Vohra

"The pilot, prototype, alpha, beta, and customer controlled testing and R&D testings are over. The first two vehicles will be launched by 2024-end and the next two by January or February," he said.

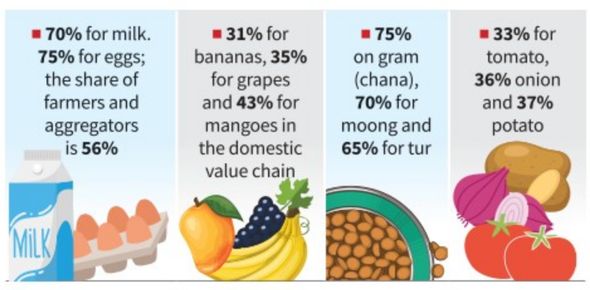
Currently, TICMPL retails Montra Electric Super Auto (passenger version) and electric trucks.

Farmers earn less than 40% of price paid for fruits, vegetables: RBI paper

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Middlemen and retailers seemed to have cornered a large part of the price paid by consumers, thus profiteering at the cost of farmers, during the time of high inflation in case of fruits and vegetables, working papers by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) show.

In working papers prepared by RBI's Department of Economy & Policy Research, farmers were found to have earned far lesser share of the consumer rupee in case of fruits, including bananas, grapes and mangoes and essential vegetables such as tomatoes, onions and potatoes, while the share was much higher in dairy, poultry farming and pulses.



As per the working paper 'Livestock and Poultry Inflation in India,' the farmers' share in the consumer rupee is estimated at 70% for milk and 75% for eggs; for poultry meat, the share of farmers and aggregators is 56% together.

According to Working Paper titled 'Price Dynamics and Value Chain of Fruits in India,' farmers' share in the consumer rupee is estimated at about 31% for bananas, 35% for grapes and 43% for mangoes in local value chain.

Pulses inflation

The paper 'Pulses Inflation in India' finds about 75% of the consumer rupee spent on gram (chana) came back to farmers while the share was about 70% for moong and 65% for tur.

The paper on 'Vegetables Inflation in India' puts farmers' share in consumer rupee at about 33% for tomatoes, 36% for onions and 37% for potatoes.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone, 16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru

No.BBMP/EE/ELE/EAST/TEND/ 04/2024-25 Date: 03.10.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone invites tenders from eligible KCEI / Class-II & above electrical contractors for **Operation and maintenance of street lighting system in following wards of BBMP East zone for 10 Months packages E-1 to E-28.**

Sl. No.	Ward Nos. of the Work	Est. Cost of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	61	23.57	50,000/-
2	62	25.15	50,500/-
3	63 & 67	29.93	60.000/-
4	64 & 65	26.68	53,500/-
5	66 & 68	26.79	53,600/-
6	69 & 70	25.96	52,000/-
7	71 & 72	24.06	50,000/-
8	73 & 74	28.36	56,800/-
9	75	21.90	50,000/-
10	116 & 117	31.68	63,500/-
11	118	25.15	50,500/-
12	119 & 120	29.17	58,500/-
13	121	21.10	50,000/-
14	76 & outer ring road	34.55	69,200/-
15	77 & 78	26.00	52,000/-
16	79 & 84	28.45	56,900/-
17	82	38.62	77,300/-
18	83 & 85	31.70	63,500/-
19	80 & 81	33.33	66,700/-
20	167	27.60	55,300/-
21	171	26.00	52,000/-
22	169 & 172	24.35	50,000/-
23	170	20.31	50,000/-
24	166 & 168	26.00	52,100/-
25	108 & 113	28.42	57,000/-
26	109 & 110	29.25	58,600/-
27	111 & 112	28.40	57,000/-
28	114 & 115	28.43	57,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**: **from 08.10.2024 at 16.30 hrs onwards. 2)** Last Date for tender queries on or before: **21.10.2024 upto 16:00 hrs**. **3)** Last date for submission of Bid documents: **23.10.2024 upto 16:15 Hrs. 4)** Date of opening of Tenders: **24.10.2024 at 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-25501216 / 25501227 or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director Education, Head Office BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: BBMP/2024-25/IND0081 Date: 03.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites Tender for the following from eligible bidders.

Tender Name	Tender Reference Number
1) Tender for the Supply of Laboratory items, Charts, Specimens, Models and Chemicals to BBMP 5 PU Science Colleges.	BBMP/2024-25/ IND0081
2) Tender for the supply of Furnitures to the BBMP schools and colleges of BBMP.	BBMP/2024-25/ IND0082

Following are the events of bid process: (1) Date of commencement of download of tender document from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**: **03.10.2024** onwards. **(2)** Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid meeting: **07.10.2024** at **11:30 a.m.** at the following venue: Office of the SADP, First Floor, Annexe-3 Building Bengaluru-560002. **(3)** Last date and time for uploading online queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **7.10.2024** upto **5:00 p.m. (4)** Last date and time for uploading of tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **19.10.2024** upto **5:00 p.m. (5)** Date and time of online opening of Technical bids: **21.10.2024, 11:00 a.m. (6)** Address for communication: Office of the SADP, 1st Floor, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru-560002. Phone: 080-22112585 / 080-22975824 / 080-22975728. Email: eoeducation@yahoo.in.
Tender documents may be downloaded from the website of Government of Karnataka, Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director, BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2024-25/3108 DATE: 30/09/2024

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 4 works under head of account 5054-MDR Improvements and 3 works under head of account 4059-Department Buildings, Totally 7 No. of works, amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 285.71 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 571.43 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 09-10-2024 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 10-10-2024 up to 5.30 PM 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 14-10-2024 up to 5.00 PM 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 16-10-2024 at 4.30 PM 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids" 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-923/KSMCA/2024-25

TEHRAN

Iran military adviser in Syria dies days after Israeli strike, say media

AP

Majid Divani, an Iranian military official with the Revolutionary Guards in Syria, succumbed on Thursday to injuries sustained in an Israeli strike on Damascus earlier this week, Iranian media said. According to a war monitor, Israeli strikes on Tuesday targeting Damascus killed at least six people, including three civilians. AFP

TAIPEI

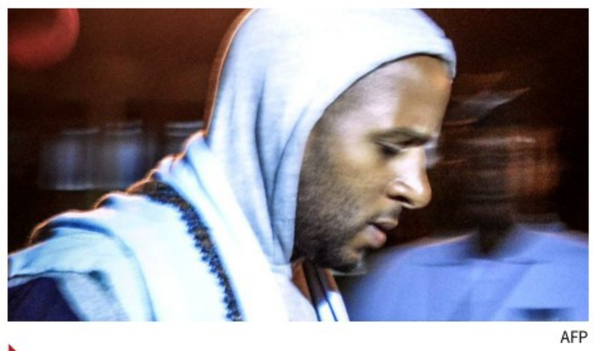
Nine dead in Taiwan hospital blaze as typhoon makes landfall in south

AP

Nine people died on Thursday after a fire ripped through a hospital in southern Taiwan just as a typhoon hit, making rescue operations "more difficult", authorities said. The local government said a probe had been launched into the cause of the blaze, and that firefighters continued to conduct search and rescue operations. AFP

PARIS

French jihadist linked to *Charlie Hebdo* attackers jailed for life



AFP

A French suspected jihadist close to the brothers behind the 2015 massacre at satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* was on Thursday sentenced to life imprisonment. The judge sentenced Peter Cherif, who had been on trial since mid-September, to imprisonment for life, subject to a 22-year period of unconditional detention. AFP

WASHINGTON

Biden says 'discussing' possible Israeli strikes on Iran oil facilities

AFP

U.S. President Joe Biden said he was discussing possible Israeli strikes on Iranian oil sites in retaliation for Tehran's missile barrage on Israel, in comments that quickly sent oil prices spiking on Thursday. "We're discussing that. I think that would be a little... anyway," Mr. Biden told presspersons at the White House. AFP

Hezbollah's intel headquarters hit as Israel's 'ground raids' continue

Israeli military said an overnight strike killed 15 Hezbollah fighters in Bint Jbeil; Israel earlier carried out a deadly air strike in downtown Beirut, hitting an emergency services rescue facility run by Hezbollah, killing seven workers, the service said

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israel's military said on Thursday it had hit Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital, as troops battled militants near the border and warplanes bombarded their strongholds around the country.

Israel announced this week that its troops had started "ground raids" into parts of southern Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, after days of heavy bombardment of areas across the country where the group holds sway.

The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry, and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in a country already mired in economic and political crisis.

Attack's aftermath: Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli air strike at a neighbourhood in Beirut's southern suburb on Thursday. AFP

In Lebanon, the Israeli military said it hit "targets belonging to Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut".

Lebanon's state-run *National News Agency* reported three air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, with a source close to Hezbollah saying the target was an evacuated building that housed the group's media relations office.

Central Beirut strike

Hezbollah said it fought off a bid by Israeli troops to advance at Fatima's Gate on the border. It also said it set off two explosive devices against advancing Israeli forces as it kept up its cross-border rocket fire.

The military said an overnight strike killed 15 Hezbollah fighters in Bint Jbeil, an area heavily damaged during Israel's last war with the militant group in 2006.

Later the Lebanese Army said one of its soldiers was killed when "the Israeli enemy targeted an Army post in the Bint Jbeil area" prompting retaliatory fire.

A Lebanese military official said it was the Army's first response to Israeli fire since last October.

Israel earlier carried out a deadly air raid in downtown Beirut, hitting an emergency services rescue facility run by Hezbollah, killing seven workers, the service said.

Israel has yet to comment on the strike, but said it had hit about 200 Hezbollah targets "in Lebanese territory".

U.K. to return Chagos to Mauritius in historic deal

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The U.K. and Mauritius have reached a historic political agreement to secure the strategically important U.K.-U.S. military base on Diego Garcia and towards restoring Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago. A treaty is now being worked out to firm up the agreement, the U.K. announced on Thursday.

"For the first time in more than 50 years, the status of the base will be undisputed and legally secure, following a political agreement between the U.K. and Mauritius," the U.K. High Commission in India said in a statement. "It sees Mauritius assume sovereignty over British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), with the U.K. authorised to exercise the sovereign rights of Mauritius on Diego Garcia."

An aerial view of Diego Garcia.

MEA reaction

Welcoming the agreement on the return of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago, including Diego Garcia, India's Ministry of External Affairs said this "significant" understanding completes the "decolonisation" of Mauritius. "The resolution of the long-standing Chagos dispute after two years of negotiations, in compliance with international law, is a welcome development," the MEA said in a statement.

India has consistently supported the Mauritian claim for sovereignty over Chagos, in line with its principled stand on decolonisation and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, as well as its long-standing and close partnership with Mauritius, the MEA noted. India remains committed to working with Mauritius and other like-minded partners in strengthening maritime safety and security and contributing to enhanced peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region, it added.

NATO chief Rutte visits Ukraine, vows to shore up support

Associated Press
KYIV

New NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte visited Ukraine on Thursday in his first official trip since taking office and pledging the alliance's continued support for Kyiv in its war with Russia.

Mr. Rutte met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv as air raid sirens twice went off in the Ukrainian capital.

The new head of NATO vowed when he took office on Tuesday to help shore up Western support for Ukraine, which has been fighting Russia's full-scale invasion since February 2022 and has for most of this year been on the defensive due to a relentless Russian Army push in the country's eastern regions.

Mark Rutte

Mr. Rutte expressed confidence that he can work with whomever is elected President of the United States, the alliance's most powerful member, in November.

Tanzania suspends newspaper over post featuring President

Agence France-Presse
DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania suspended the online operations of a leading newspaper on Thursday after it released cartoons featuring the President and referencing recent abductions and killings of dissidents.

One of the animated videos released online earlier this week by *The Citizen* showed President Samia Suluhu Hassan watching news broadcasts of dissidents and victims of state repression.

Ms. Hassan has faced mounting domestic and international criticism over allegations that the security forces are behind the kidnapping and murder of Opposition figures. Her government has banned two major rallies by the Opposition Chadema party since August, briefly detaining its leaders.

The Citizen, one of the most influential English-language papers, issued a statement on Wednesday saying its online publications had been suspended for 30 days.

The ruling came from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, which described the clips as presenting "negative interpretations for the nation, something that affects and undermines national unity, peace and cohesion".

Liz Cheney to campaign with Harris in Wisconsin; Trump to hold rally in Michigan

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Liz Cheney, one of Donald Trump's fiercest Republican antagonists, will join Democrat Kamala Harris at a campaign event in Wisconsin on Thursday aimed at reaching out to moderate voters and rattling the former President.

Ms. Cheney was the top Republican on the House committee that investigated the January 6, 2021, insurrection, earning Mr. Trump's disdain and effectively exiling herself from her own party.

Ms. Cheney lost her Wyoming seat to a Trump-endorsed candidate two years ago and she endorsed Ms. Harris, the Democratic nominee, last month. The two women will appear together in a historic white schoolhouse in Ripon, where a series of meetings held in 1854 to oppose slavery's expansion led to the birth of the Republican Party.

Liz Cheney and Kamala Harris.

Ms. Harris is opening a two-day stay in Wisconsin and Michigan, and Mr. Trump will be in Michigan on Thursday as the two candidates grapple for wins in the "blue wall" battleground states, which also include Pennsylvania.

Ms. Harris' visit to Wisconsin comes one day after a federal judge unsealed a 165-page court filing outlining prosecutors' case against Mr. Trump for his attempt to overturn his 2020 election defeat. Mr. Trump has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and obstruction.

It is uncommon, to say the least, for a candidate to give a nod to the origins of the opposing party in the closing weeks of a presidential campaign. Not only that, the Cheney name was once anathema to Democrats who deplored Dick Cheney, Liz's father, for his role as Vice President under George W. Bush.

But now both Cheneys are backing Ms. Harris, part of a cadre of current and former Republican officials who have broken with the vast majority of their party, which remains in Mr. Trump's corner.

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

(CORPORATE HR-DEPARTMENT - NEW DELHI)

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR RENTING OUT THE OFFICE SPACE OF NTPC LTD. ON LEASE AT SCOPE COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI

EOI Ref. No.: CC:HR:OFFICE-SPACE:2024 Date: 04.10.2024

NTPC Ltd. invites EOI from CPSEs/Nationalized Banks for renting out its below mentioned office space on lease at SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.

Properties	1.	Ground Floor at Core-5, Scope Complex
	2.	1st Floor at Core-5, Scope Complex
	3.	3rd Floor at Core-5, Scope Complex
	4.	6th Floor at Core-6, Scope Complex
	5.	7th Floor at Core-6, Scope Complex

Last date of submission of EOI: 03.11.2024

For detailed EOI and documents, please visit www.ntpctender.com or may contact DGM (HR-O&M), Human Resources Department, NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, 1st Floor, Scope Complex, New Delhi-110 003; Tel. No.: 011-24387609/24387912; Mob. No.: 9453000125, 8004947091; E-mail: spkaushik@ntpc.co.in, rnmalik@ntpc.co.in

CIN: L40101DL1975GOI007966

Leading the Power Sector

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No.2470/PW/EEI/ID/JE(P)-33/2024-2025
Puducherry, the 03.10.2024

Notice inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, PWD, Puducherry invites on behalf of the President of India, online bids for the following Work(s):

1) Tender **No.73/PW/IRRN/2024-2025** ***Name of Work:*** *Construction of* ***Check dam*** *across Sankaraparani River including Protection works at Pillaiyarkuppam in Villianur Commune, Puducherry-****(III Call)***. Estimate Cost: **Rs.19,85,22,618/-** (inclusive of GST). Earnest Money: **Rs.29,85,2261-**. Period of Completion: **Twelve (12) Months** (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender: **29.10.2024**.

2) Tender **No.74/PW/IRRN/2024-2025** ***Name of Work:*** Construction of protection wall to the left bank and right bank on the Upstream and Downstream of River Pennaiyar at **Kommanthanmedu** Village, Bahour Commune, Puducherry **-(IV Call)**.. Estimate Cost: **Rs.12,97,59,489/-** (inclusive of GST). Earnest Money: **Rs.22,97,595/-**. Period of Completion: **Nine (09) Months** (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender: **29.10.2024.**

3) Tender **No.75/PW/IRRN/2024-2025** ***Name of Work:*** Construction of Single Lane Bridge across Bahour Surplus weir and formation of Tank bund road around Bahour Tank in Bahour Revenue Village, Bahour Commune, Puducherry-**(V Call)**.. Estimate Cost: **Rs.7,51,91,671/-** (inclusive of GST). Earnest Money: **Rs.15,03,833/-.** Period of Completion: **Twelve (12) Months** (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender: **29.10.2024**.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website. www.pudutenders.gov.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

No.246/DIP/AD(Press)/2024-25

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family welfare)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Website: www.jipmer.edu.in Phone: 0413-2298288

No. JIP/Edn.4 (1)/2024-25/ BScCourses Dated: 03.10.2024

JIPMER invites applications for admission to BSc (Nursing / AHS) Courses – **Academic Year 2024-25**

IMPORTANT DATES

1. Online Registration commencement : 03.10.2024 - (Thursday)
2. Online Registration closes on : 24.10.2024 (Thursday) - 4 PM

For further details, refer to BSc Prospectus 2024-25 available on JIPMER website **www.jipmer.edu.in**

Admission to all B.Sc Courses will be based on NEET (UG) 2024 merit score.

DEAN (ACADEMIC)

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113
Ph: 044 2254 0500 / 501, Fax: 2254 1744
www.tidelpark.com / md@tidelpark.com

Tender No: **TIDEL/2024-2025/25**

TIDEL Park Limited invites "E-Tender for Construction of IT Office Building, Ground Floor + 6 Floors + Terrace, Including Civil Construction, Interior Finishing Works, MEP Works and Other Allied Development Works at **Tiruchirappalli**."

For more details and participation in the above e-Tender, please visit the website www.tntenders.gov.in. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 06.11.2024.** TIDEL Park Limited reserves the right to accept /reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/4042/TENDER/2024 MANAGING DIRECTOR

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BIDDING (IFB) E-TENDER (RFx) NOTICE

Notice for submission of online bids (RFx) for following

S. N.	RFx/Tender No. & Description
01	RFx No. 7000033157 Work Of Replacement of existing 0.4 ACSR conductor along with hardware by High Performance Conductor (HPC) of 220kV Solapur PG- Narangwadi DC Line line and strengthening of end bays for RE power evacuation under GEC under Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Zone. Estimated Cost: Rs 97,92,53,146.34 -/- Only (Including GST & Labour cess) EMD- Rs. 97,92,531.46 /- Tender Fees:- Rs 25000/- (Including GST) Start Date-03.10.2024 Submission Date - 04.11.2024.

For further details, visit our Website
https://srmetender. mahatransco.in

Chief Engineer EHV PC & O&M Zone MSETCL
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION : TIRUPATI

Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Tirupati Invites bids through e-Procurement platform from the "eligibel contractors" for the following Project NIT Number : 01 / MCT / MSW / Biomethanation / 2024-25 Dt: 04-10-2024.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

REP No:	Name of the Work
01 / MCT / MSW / Biomethanation / 2024-25	Request for proposal (RFP) is invited for Development of 100 TPD (MT Capacity Per Day) Bio-methanation Plant at Thukivakam Village of Renigunta Mandal for Processing of segregated Bio-Degradable Municipal Solid Waste of and Convert into Bio - CNG / Power / Engergy / Resource on Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer (DBFOT) basis with Design Build period of 12 months and O&M period of 20 years.

Bidders are advised to visit the e-procurement marketplace at https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in from october 5th, 2024 to download the RFP document and detailed instructions. For any assistance regarding participation in the e-tender, contact the Superintending Engineer through se.mct.tsccl@gmail.com. The duly completed document have to be submitted online only.

All other information, including any extensions, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum, addendum, and so on, will be posted on the above mentioned website only and will not be published elsewhere.

Municipal Corporation Tirupati reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid offers in part or full without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- N.MOURYA, IAS., Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, TIRUPATI

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SPECIAL ONE

Been waiting for this moment for a long time: Nigar Sultana

@ICC

Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana was overcome by emotion after guiding her side to its first T20 World Cup win in 10 years. "We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. We knew in our minds that this was our moment. We are very happy that we fought back and seeing them (the players) smile is the biggest inspiration," she said.

DEBUT JITTERS

Not sure about what to do with those nerves: Scotland skipper Bryce

@ICC

Scotland skipper Kathryn Bryce put her side's inability to close out a win against Bangladesh to debut jitters. "It was always going to be tough. (There was) A little buzz around, not sure about what to do with those nerves. We were a little bit sloppy in the field. A couple of misfields and overthrows — those little things can cost you in the end."

TARGET ACHIEVED

Needed Chamari's wicket to have a good start and we got it: Sana

@ICC

Skipper Fatima Sana proved game-changer for Pakistan in its match against Sri Lanka. "We won the toss and wanted to score a lot of runs but that didn't happen. But we still achieved our target in the game. We all know Chamari [Athapaththu] is a good player, we needed that wicket to have a good start and we got it," said Sana.

NO EXCUSES

We struggled to chase, we have to adjust to conditions: Athapaththu

@ICC

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu was disappointed after the side failed to overhaul a modest target against Pakistan. "We struggled to chase. We have to adjust to the conditions. We bowled well, we have to bat really well too. We can't keep giving excuses, saying the wicket was slow. We have to play positive cricket."

Women in Blue revved up to mount challenge to win elusive World title

Move to slot skipper Harmanpreet at No. 3 holds the key; bowling department expected to do the job in conditions likely to favour them

WOMEN'S T20 WC

Lavanya L
DUBAI

Big catch: Skipper Harmanpreet and her players will have to be on the ball in their quest to win the ICC T20 World Cup crown. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

It wasn't too long ago when the number 3 position in the batting order gave the Indian think-tank nightmares. There was a time when Mithali Raj, in the twilight of her career, copped criticism for her strike rate in that position (across the two white ball formats). After her era ended, the dilemma was about finding a worthy successor, a figure of solidity who could be the fulcrum for a complete batting effort. Jemimah Rodrigues got a go in that position before moving further down the order.

In recent months, two names –Yastika Bhatia and Dayalan Hemalatha – seem to be the prime candidates for the key spot. Even Sajana Sajeevan, who fancies herself as a late hitter, and keeper-batter Uma Chetry were given a go in games here and there.

In the practice fixtures India played against West Indies and South Africa, one was surprised to see skipper Harmanpreet Kaur coming in at number 3. She managed a 11-ball 10 against the Proteas and a solitary run off three balls against the Windies.

However, India head coach Amol Muzumdar confirmed that this experiment wasn't merely that. It was a thought-out strategy set in stone well ahead of the team landing in the UAE for the T20 World Cup.

In the 173 T20Is she has featured in, Harmanpreet has come in at number 3 in just 18 games, scoring 298 runs in total at an average of 21.28.

"We had already decided during the camps back in India. We had a lovely one in Bengaluru. The pre-World Cup matches here absolutely stamped that for us," Muzumdar said ahead of India's campaign opener against New Zealand on Thursday.

Conditions in Dubai are expected to be slow with low bounce, much like what was on display on the opening day in Sharjah. Slotting her higher seems to be to give her more time to settle and begin hitting once she has a lay of the land and the opponents before her. Harmanpreet has, for long, made the number 4 spot her own, having played 116 matches in that slot with 2,474 of her career haul of 3,426 runs being amassed there.

While the gamble on the number 3 slot looks like it could go either way, India's biggest strengths are its openers – when they get going – and a potent lower-middle order pairing of Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma. The difference in styles – one leaning more towards stabilisation while the other keeps the strike rate high – has worked not just for India but also across various domestic competitions these two have shared a dressing room in. India's late batting porousness needs the duo to come good.

While India's batting garners all the eyeballs, its bowling arsenal too is itching to get going on a surface that richly rewards players with potent slower deliveries. Shreyanka Patil and Asha Sobhana in the spin department and Arundhati Reddy in the pace aisle have all been actively working on dropping pace in the air to deceive batters or elicit a false shot. Spin to win seems to be UAE's mantra and the Indian think-tank seems fairly confident in the personnel at its disposal.

Even players like Harmanpreet, who used to bowl regularly in this format and who last rolled her arm over in 2022 vs England, might find the need to step up. Muzumdar reiterated that the top six players were told in no uncertain terms that they have to step up and try to contribute with the ball.

Two editions of the Women's Premier League, Muzumdar said, has only added to the talent pool and cushioning India's chances of fielding high-quality cricketers in waves.

"Some of the players that have come into the Indian squad here at the World Cup are the product of what WPL is. Of course, not undermining the first-class (domestic) cricketers back home. But WPL has given us a strong base to find players," he explained. Sajana, Asha Sobhana and Shreyanka Patil all found their national careers fast-tracked due to the visible success they enjoyed in the WPL.

When Muzumdar took over as India head coach last October, the two areas of urgent priority he underlined were fielding and fitness. The latest camp held in Bengaluru focussed on the very same.

"The effort has been there. I think you'll definitely see the results."

India's Group A fixtures

October 4	vs New Zealand	Dubai	7.30 p.m.
October 6	vs Pakistan	Dubai	3.30 p.m.
October 9	vs Sri Lanka	Dubai	7.30 p.m.
October 13	vs Australia	Sharjah	7.30 p.m.
Knockout phase			
October 17	Semifinal 1 (A1 vs B2)	Dubai	7.30 p.m.
October 18	Semifinal 2 (A2 vs B1)	Sharjah	7.30 p.m.
October 20	Final	Dubai	7.30 p.m.

All times IST

Bangladesh breaks a 3,837-day drought

Success, at last! The Bangladesh players are on cloud nine after ending their 10-year wait for a win in the T20 World Cup. @ICC

Sports Bureau

When the 2024 Women's ICC T20 World Cup was moved out of Bangladesh due to anti-government protests, there was a lot of sympathy for the nation. The T20 World Cup, set to return to the country after 10 years, was moved to the UAE. The Bangladesh Cricket Board, however, retained the hosting rights.

In the run-up to the opener, skipper Nigar Sultana said she hoped her side – which won just two of the 12 T20Is it played this year – emerged victorious in at least one game. That's what Bangladesh did as it held its nerve to beat debutant Scotland by 16 runs in Sharjah on Thursday. The last time Bangladesh won a T20 World Cup match was in Sylhet when it beat Ireland by 17 runs on April 3 in the 2014 edition.

After Sultana opted to bat, Scotland managed to stem the flow of runs in the middle phase. Bangladesh, however, finished with 119 for seven. Off-spinner Saskia Horley took three for 13 for Scotland.

Opener Sarah Bryce carried her bat, remaining unbeaten on 49. None of the other batters made any significant contribution. Marufa Akter chipped in with the key wicket of skipper Kathryn Bryce after which Sultana opted exclusively for spin with great success.

In the second match, Pakistan defended a total of 116 against Sri Lanka as skipper Fatima Sana excelled with bat and ball.

The scores:
Bangladesh 119/7 in 20 overs (Sobhana Mostary 36, Saskia Horley 3/13) bt Scotland 103/7 in 20 overs (Sarah Bryce 49 n.o., Ritu Moni 2/15); **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Ritu Moni.
Pakistan 116 in 20 overs (Fatima Sana 30, Udeshika Prabodhani 3/20, Sugandika Kumari 3/19, Chamari Athapaththu 3/18) bt Sri Lanka 85/9 in 20 overs (Fatima Sana 2/10, Sadia Iqbal 3/17, Omaima Sohail 2/17, Nashra Sandhu 2/15); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Fatima Sana.

Abhimanyu keeps RoI in the hunt

Amol Karhadkar
LUCKNOW

Going strong: Rest of India's chances of overhauling Mumbai's mammoth total rest on Abhimanyu. SANDEEP SAXENA

A four-pronged bowling attack - in the absence of Shardul Thakur, the bowler - did its best to keep things tight and even managed to snare four crucial scalps. But Abhimanyu Easwaran's third hundred in as many matches kept Rest of India in the hunt to overhaul Mumbai's mammoth first innings score of 538 in the prestigious Irani Cup tie.

Riding on Abhimanyu's unbeaten 151 (212b, 12x4, 1x6), RoI cruised to 289 for four at the end of the third day's play. With the hot and humid weather posing a bigger challenge for the bowlers than the pitch, the onus will be on Abhimanyu to repeat Sarfaraz Khan's heroics in order to get RoI closer to the initial target of 539.

Abhimanyu carried on from where he had left in the Duleep Trophy in Anantapur. Ever since he whipped debutant Juned Khan through square-leg for his first four, he looked in silken touch. He used his feet effectively against the spin duo of Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian.

The only time he erred - edging a Mohit Avasthi outswinger in the afternoon session - resulted in the 'keeper and first slip fielder turning spectators only to see the ball race to the boundary and Abhimanyu celebrated a well-deserved hundred.

Mumbai will be happy to have struck at regular intervals. Every time a partnership appeared to be developing, they broke through. Juned drew captain Ruturaj Gaikwad (caught in the slips) into an error with the new ball, Kotian got one to cut in slightly to trap Sai Sudharsan leg-before wicket.

Avasthi then struck on either side of the tea break, drawing Devdutt Padikkal forward into an edge while getting one to rise on Ishan Kishan and the edge was pouched by Hardik Tamore.

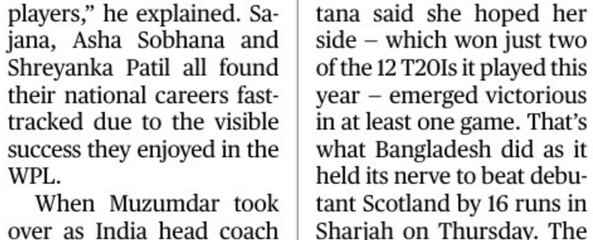
Mumbai also received a big boost with Thakur taking the field in the closing session. Having had a bout of viral fever, he spent the previous night in a hospital. After his blood tests returned clear, he was discharged in the morning, came to the stadium in the afternoon and fielded in the last session.

The scores:
Mumbai — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw c Padikkal b Mukesh 4, Ayush Mhatre c Jurel b Mukesh 19, Hardik Tamore c Jurel b Mukesh 0, Ajinkya Rahane c Jurel b Dayal 97, Shreyas Iyer c Gaikwad b Dayal 57, Sarfaraz Khan (not out) 222, Shams Mulani b Mukesh 5, Tanush Kotian b Prasidh 64, Mohit Avasthi lbw b Prasidh 0, Shardul Thakur b Saransh 36, Mohammad Juned Khan b Mukesh 0; Extras (b-5, lb-7, nb-12, w-9): 33; Total (in 141 overs): 537.
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-6, 3-37, 4-139, 5-270, 6-280, 7-463, 8-463, 9-536.
Rest of India bowling: Mukesh 30-3-110-5, Dayal 25-1-89-2, Prasidh 27-5-102-2, Suthar 37-6-137-0, Saransh Jain 21-1-82-1, Sai Sudharsan 1-0-5-0.
Rest of India — 1st innings: Ruturaj Gaikwad c Shaw b Juned 9, Abhimanyu Easwaran (batting) 151, B. Sai Sudharsan lbw b Kotian 32, Devdutt c Tamore b Avasthi 16, Ishan Kishan c Tamore b Avasthi 38, Dhruv Jurel (batting) 30; Extras (lb-7, nb-6): 13; Total (for four wkts. in 74 overs): 289
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-127, 3-158, 4-228.
Mumbai bowling: Avasthi 16-1-66-2, Juned 13-0-57-1, Mulani 28-2-87-1, Kotian 17-1-72-1.

Knights take the early lead; Pipers and Gambits also register wins

GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON



Honours even: The duel between Arjun and Praggnanandhaa ended in a draw. GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE

One of the most anticipated games of the second edition of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League happened on the first day.

Two of the young stars in India's triumph at the Chess Olympiad took on each other at Friends House here on Thursday.

Arjun Erigaisi, representing Ganges Grandmasters, and R. Praggnanandhaa, playing for Alpine SG Pipers, drew their game. The match was won by Pipers, 11-6.

In other matches, American Gambits defeated Upgrad Mumba Masters 11-6 and PBG Alaskan Knights turned the tables on defending champion Triveni Continental Kings 15-3.

The wins by Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Shakhriyar Mamyedarov and Nihal Sarin helped Knights leap ahead of Pipers and Masters in the table. Pipers' victory was ensured by Richard Rapport and former women's World champion Hou Yifan, as the other games were drawn.

Among those draws was the one between five-time World champions Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand.

Hou defeated Praggnanandhaa's elder sister R. Vaishali, while Rapport overcame Parham Maghsoodloo.

Those wins with black pieces fetched their team four points each (there are only three points for wins with white).

The focus in the match between American Gambits and Upgrad Mumba Masters was on the game between Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Hikaru Nakamura, two of the world's top players. It was a well-fought game, and it was a draw.

"My game was maybe a little shaky at times, but everybody else seemed to play well, so I am actually pretty optimistic," said Nakamura, the biggest addition to the league this season.

American Gambits pocketed the match thanks to the wins posed by Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Bibisara Assaubayeva and Jonas Buhl Bjerre.

The results:
Upgrad Mumba Masters lost to American Gambits 6-11
(Maxime Vachier-Lagrave drew with Hikaru Nakamura; Vidit Gujrathi lost to Jan-Krzysztof Duda; Peter Svidler drew with Yu Yangyi; Koneru Humpy lost to Bibisara Assaubayeva; D. Harika bt Elisabeth Paehtz; Raunak Sadhwani lost to Jonas Buhl Bjerre).
Ganges Grandmasters lost to Alpine SG Pipers 6-11
(Viswanathan Anand drew with Magnus Carlsen; Arjun Erigaisi drew with R. Praggnanandhaa; Parham Maghsoodloo lost to Richard Rapport; R. Vaishali lost to Hou Yifan; Nurgyul Salimova bt Kateryna Lagno; Volodar Murzin drew with Daniel Dardha).
PBG Alaskan Knights bt Triveni Continental Kings 15-3
(Anish Giri drew with Firouzja Alireza; Nodirbek Abdusattorov bt Wei Yi; Shakhriyar Mamyedarov bt Teimour Radjabov; Tan Zhongyi drew with Alexandra Kosteniuk; Alina Kashlinskaya drew with Valentina Gunina; Nihal Sarin bt Javokhir Sindarov).

(The correspondent is in London at the invitation of Tech Mahindra).

INBRIEF

Khushi claims 50m rifle 3-position bronze

Khushi won the bronze medal in the 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the World junior shooting championship in Lima, Peru. Khushi made the final with a score of 585, when three others, including compatriot Anushka Thokur, with the same score could not make it owing to lesser number of inner-10s. In the team event, India's three nominated shooters could only put the team in the fifth place with their aggregate.

The results: Women: 50m rifle 3-position: 1. Synnoeve Berg (Nor) 458.4 (586), 2. Caroline Lund (Nor) 458.3 (591), 3. Khushi 447.3 (585); 11. Anushka Thokur 585; 24. Sakshi Padekar 581; 32. Melvina Gladson 580; 41. Prachi Gaikwad 575. **Team:** 1. Czech Republc 1763 (WR), 2. Norway 1762, 3. Switzerland 1761; 5. India 1757.

IOA president Usha calls for a SGM on October 25

The Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha has called a Special General Meeting of the body on October 25 to address 'contentious' issues.

Mustafa wins sub-junior boys' State-ranking snooker title

Mohammed Mustafa claimed the sub-junior boys' State-ranking snooker tournament title at KSBA in Bengaluru.

The result: Final: Mohammed Mustafa bt Aditya Vijay Chawla 26-64, 55-37, 62-37.

LIVE TELECAST

Irani Cup: Rest of India vs Mumbai, day 4, Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m.; India vs New Zealand, 7.30 p.m.

Global Chess League: JioCinema, 5.30 p.m. onwards.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: gxr.world, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Saturday).

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday).

LaLiga: gxr.world, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Stunning wins for Lille, Aston Villa and Benfica; easy outing for Liverpool

Defending champion Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Atletico are the big guns to stumble, while 10-man Juventus edges Leipzig

Confident finish: David coolly slots Lille's winner from the spot. AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press

Kylian Mbappe came off the bench but couldn't prevent defending champion Real Madrid from losing 1-0 at unheralded Lille in the revamped Champions League on Wednesday.

Also winning on the night was Aston Villa which stunned Bayern Munich and Benfica which routed Atletico Madrid.

Canada striker Jonathan David's penalty deep into first-half stoppage time ensured victory for Lille.

David shot confidently past goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, who was replacing the injured Thibaut Courtois.

It was Madrid's first loss in the competition since a 4-0 hammering by Manchester City in the 2023 semifinal return leg.

Liverpool coach Arne Slot got his first taste of a European night at Anfield and saw his team beat Bologna 2-0, thanks to goals from midfielder Alexis Mac Allister and prolific forward Mohamed Salah.

Substitute Jhon Duran scored a late winner to give Aston Villa another 1-0 win against Bayern Munich.

When the sides met in the 1982 European Cup final, Villa won 1-0 in a big upset.

Brilliant effort

Coach Unai Emery sent the 20-year-old Duran on in the 70th and the Colombia forward – who has made a habit of scoring goals from the bench – did it again with a brilliant left-footed effort from around 25 metres to beat Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Juventus had goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio sent off in the 59th for a handball yet still won 3-2 at Leipzig.

Kerem Akturkoglu, veteran Angel Di Maria, Alexander Bah and Orkun Kokcu scored for Benfica in a 4-0 rout of Atletico Madrid.

The results: Shakhtar Donetsk 0 lost to Atalanta 3 (Djimsiti 21, Lookman 44, Bellanova 48); Girona 2 (Lopez 19, Van de Beek 73) lost to Feyenoord 3 (Herrera 23-og, Milambo 33, Krejci 79-og); Liverpool 2 (Mac Allister 11, Salah 75) bt Bologna 0; RB Leipzig 2 (Sesko 30, 65-pen) lost to Juventus 3 (Vlahovic 50, 68, Conceicao 83); Benfica 4 (Akturkoglu 13, Di Maria 52-pen, Bah 75, Kokcu 84-pen) bt Atletico Madrid 0; Dinamo Zagreb 2 (Sucic 45+3, Baturina 66) drew with Monaco 2 (Salisu 74, Zakaria 90-pen); Lille 1 (David 45+3-pen) bt Real Madrid 0; Aston Villa 1 (Duran 79) bt Bayern Munich 0; Sturm Graz 0 lost to Club Brugge 1 (Tzolis 23).

Second seed Riya Bhatia squeezes past Yubrani Banerjee

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Second seed and former champion Riya Bhatia had to be at her fiery best to wriggle her way past the free-stroking Yubrani Banerjee 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(5) in the women's quarterfinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.

The 27-year-old Riya relies a lot on her power play. She was dictating the flow of the match when she led 6-3, 2-0, but lost her way thereafter.

A superb counter puncher, Yubrani matched Riya stroke for stroke, especially in the decider, when she raced to a 5-3 lead.

In the semifinals, Riya will play the 15-year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran, who has won six matches in a row, including three in the qualifying event, by dropping an overall average of four games per match.

Riya Bhatia. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

The other semifinal will be between top seed Vaidehi Chaudhari and Pooja Ingale.

In the men's section, lucky loser Rethin Pranav eased past the giant killer Yash Chaurasia for the loss of four games. He will face Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam in the semifinals.

The results (quarterfinals): Men: Vishnu Vardhan bt Bushan Haobam 6-3, 6-3; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Raghav Jaisinghani 6-3, 6-4; Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Keerthivassan Suresh 6-3, 6-1; Rethin Pranav bt Yash Chaurasia 6-1, 6-3. **Women:** Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Aditi Rawat 6-1, 6-1; Pooja Ingale bt Akanksha Nitture 6-4, 6-2; Maaya Rajeshwaran bt Humera Baharmus 6-2, 7-6(2); Riya Bhatia bt Yubrani Banerjee 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(5). **Under-18: Boys:** Aradhya Kshitij bt Vineeth Mutyala 6-0, 7-6(5); Karan Thapa bt Smit Patel 6-4, 6-4; Varun Verma bt Debasis Sahoo 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(3); Shanker Heisnam bt Aashravya Mehra 7-6(2), 6-7(8), 6-0. **Girls:** Sejal Bhutada bt Aakruti Sonkusare 6-4, 6-1; Diya Ramesh bt Aishwarya Jadhav 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Prisha Shinde bt Mahika Khanna 2-6, 6-4, 6-0; Anandita Upadhyay bt Danica Fernando 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Winning start for seeded players

CHESS

Sports Bureau
KARAIKUDI

Fancied players, including top seed Velpulaya Sarayu of Telangana, had a smooth start to their campaign in the 50th National women's chess championship here on Thursday.

International Master-elect Sarayu, playing black, got the better of Statemate Viju M. Sevitha in the first round in 55 moves.

Important results: First round: Velpula Sarayu (TS) bt Viju M. Sevitha (TS); Bhakti Kulkarni (Goa) bt V. Tripurambika (AP).

M. Deekshita (TS) lost to Padmini Rout (PSPB); Nandhidhaa (TN) bt Siya Gujara Sagar (Guj); Ameya (Ker) lost to Rakshitta Ravi (TN); Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) bt B. Trisha (TN); Srija Seshadri (TN) bt S.D. Pournami (Ker); Bethi Natura (TS) bt Arpita Mukherjee (WB).

Deftly done: Jimenez, left, controls the ball past Thoiba Singh before scoring Blasters' second goal. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Odisha forces a draw with Kerala Blasters

ISL

Sports Bureau

Odisha FC played out a 2-2 draw with Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) in Bhubaneswar on Thursday.

Diego Mauricio scored for Odisha while Alexandre Coeff conceded an own goal. Meanwhile, Noah Sadaoui and Jesus Jimenez combined well to get on the scoresheet for Blasters.

With a goal and an assist against Odisha, Sadaoui has overtaken Dimitri Petratos with the most goal contributions in the ISL since the start of the 2022-23 season. He also created six chances for his side.

The result: Odisha FC 2 (Alexandre Coeff 29-og, Diego Mauricio 36) drew with Kerala Blasters 2 (Noah Sadaoui 18, Jesus Jimenez 21).

It's John Wick vs. The Leader in Mysore 2000 Guineas

MYSURU: John Wick and The Leader may fight out the finish of the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club Mysore 2000 Guineas 2024 (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Oct. 4). There will be no false rails.

1 COORG PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Code Of Honour (9) M. Prabhakaran 61.5, 2. Bundelkhand Queen (3) M. Naveen 60, 3. Brave Girl (11) J. Paswan 57.5, 4. Epsom Downs (1) Dhanu S 57.5, 5. Rich Strike (4) G. Manikandan 57, 6. Fifty Grand (5) R. Shiva K 56.5, 7. Ice Storm (6) M. Rajesh K 56.5, 8. Just Blues (8) Arvind K 55.5, 9. Dhurandar (2) Abhishek Mhatre 55, 10. Master Victory (7) Inayat 55, 11. Gentleman's Word (12) S. Imran 54 and 12. Amazing Luck (10) Vinod Shinde 53.5.

1. AMAZING LUCK, 2. EPSOM DOWNS, 3. MASTER VICTORY

2 COORG PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Pette's Choice (4) M. Prabhakaran 62.5, 2. Dark Chocolate (9) G. Manikandan 61, 3. Czarevitch (3) Gautam Raj 60.5, 4. Phoenix Surprise (10) Ikram Ahmed 60.5, 5. Only A Star (2) Dhanu S 60, 6. Brilliant Light (6) Kiran Rai 59.5, 7. Nishk (7) Phabhu K 59.5, 8. Emeraldo (5) R. Pradeep 58.5, 9. Astrologer (-) (-) 58, 10. D Romance (8) M. Rajesh K 58 and 11. The Replica Power (1) S. Imran 57.5.

1. EMERALDO, 2. ONLY A STAR, 3. PHOENIX SURPRISE

3 JUSTICE P. MEDAPA MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Noble Pursuit (1) Md. Imran Ashraf 56, 2. Sherpa (5) A. Baandal 56, 3. Absolute Katrina (4) R. Pradeep 54.5, 4. N R I Victory (2) Darshan 54.5, 5. Nimble Spirit (6) S. Imran 54.5 and 6. Sapient (3) Salman Khan 54.5.

1. ABSOLUTE KATRINA, 2. N R I VICTORY

4 MAJ. SARDAR L. MAHADEVAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Divine Ray (1) M. Naveen 61, 2. Dabeet (7) A. Baandal 59, 3. Ibrahimovic (4) R. Shiva K 56, 4. Real Show (8) Angad 56, 5. High Speed Dive (12) R. Ravi 55.5, 6. Art Gallery (3) Akshay K 55, 7. Jewel Thief (5) M. Rajesh K 53.5, 8. Saint Emilion (9) L.A. Rozario 53.5, 9. Marzgovel (11) Gautam Raj 53, 10. Trump Baby (2) Ayaz Khan 53, 11. My Life My Rules (10) Dhanu S 52 and 12. IL Volo (6) Shreyas S 51.5.

1. HIGH SPEED DIVE, 2. IL VOLO, 3. ART GALLERY

5 JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR GOLF CLUB MYSORE 2000 GUINEAS 2024 (1,600m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Aabushan (5) P. Sai Kumar 56, 2. Bourbonaire (2) Yash 56, 3. Don Carlos (4) Akshay K 56, 4. John Wick (7) S.J. Moulin 56, 5. Mandarino (6) Antony 56, 6. The Leader (1) Suraj 56 and 7. Vivaldi (3) Trevor 56.

1. JOHN WICK, 2. THE LEADER, 3. AABUSHAN

6 NAINITAL PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Aurele (14) Antony 60, 2. Dornish (12) Dhanu S 58, 3. Forest View (9) L.A. Rozario 57.5, 4. The Sizable (1) A. Ramu 56, 5. Brocston (13) Darshan 55, 6. Natural Light (4) Ram Nandan 55, 7. Precious Grey (3) A. Baandal 55, 8. Sky Storm (10) Angad 54, 9. Thalaivaa (2) Md. Sameer 54, 10. Wind Whistler (6) M. Rajesh K 54, 11. Sea God (5) Jagadeesh 53, 12. Natural Fly (8) Shyam K 52, 13. Real Legend (11) Kiran Rai 52, 14. Sarvottam (15) Ayaz Khan 51.5 and 15. Antinori (7) Vinod Shinde 50.5.

1. AURELE, 2. FOREST VIEW, 3. NATURAL LIGHT

7 DUPONT PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Sheer Bliss (4) S. Brahmmesh 62, 2. Gold Crest (5) K. Rajesh 61, 3. Mastery (6) Shyam K 59.5, 4. Mark One (2) Gautam Raj 57, 5. Rising Sun (7) Angad 57, 6. Dalhousie (1) Jagadeesh 54.5, 7. Red Hills (8) Md. Sameer 53.5, 8. Meadow Flower (9) Ram Nandan 53, 9. Milos (3) R. Shiva K 53 and 10. D Fighter (10) Vinod Shinde 51.

1. DALHOUSIE, 2. RED HILLS, 3. GOLD CREST

Day's best: **EMERALDO**

Double: **HIGH SPEED DIVE – AURELE**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

'Players will gain by playing in longer format'

CRICKET

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

India U-19 coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar feels that players of the home team and the visiting Australia U-19 squad stand to gain a lot by playing the longer format.

"It was a fabulous match. Both teams will gain from this. There are many things to reflect and work on, which is the case for U-19 cricket, but both sides fighting it out in a close match and getting a result at the end helps everyone to step up and deliver," Kanitkar said after India U-19 emerged victorious in a close contest in the first Youth Test at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium here on Wednesday.

"The tour is important because you get to play against international players which is always helpful because it opens your eyes to many things, you get to know how they play, and their attitude, and you learn a lot of things. From that angle, it's very important," he added.

Asked if any particular player impressed him, he said, "I'll stick to what I said earlier, I will not single out anyone, you saw what Nikhil did, his half-century is as important as Vaibhav's century in the first innings. I truly believe everyone is equally capable of these things. Our (all the coaches) job is to help them perform at their best."

When asked about the winning mindset, he said, "Firstly, you want them to learn. Winning is important. I'm not going to say it's ok to lose. No. As coaches, we look at the development part as well, but the objective is to win every game, it's as simple as that."

Golden Peaks obliges in the feature event

MYSURU: Parvati Byramji-trained Golden Peaks (Dhanu Singh up) won the Rajakumari Leelavathi Devi Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday (Oct. 3). The winner is owned by Mr. Mukul A Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Girish Mehta & Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand.

1. SECUNDERABAD PLATE (DIV. II): MYSTICAL MERLIN (Faiz) 1, Perfect Heart (A. Baandal) 2, Aaradhana (Arvind K) 3 and Ankush (Angad) 4. Not run: Vayu. 3-1/2, 2-1/4 and 1. 1m, 08.89s. ₹ 39 (w), 12, 14 and 17 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 57, FP: 67, Q: 30, Trinella: 559, Exacta: 5,477. Favourite: Perfect Heart. Owner: Mr. G. Venkatachalapathi. Trainer: G.T. Surender.

2. HOTEL R R R TROPHY (DIV. II): SWAGHATHAM (Antony) 1, Dynamic Force (R.S. Bhati) 2, Absolute Conquerer (R. Pradeep) 3 and Benghazi (Kiran Rai) 4. 1/2, 1-3/4 and Lnk. 1m, 27.42s. ₹37 (w), 16, 12 and 21 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 51, FP: 119, Q: 42, Trinella: 305, Exacta: 4,574. Favourite: Dynamic Force. Owner: Mrs. Arasi Sharma. Trainer: Rakesh.

3. SECUNDERABAD PLATE (DIV. I): N R I ACE (K. Rakesh) 1, Cloudy Hills (L.A. Rozario) 2, Shadow 'saim (B. Harish) 3 and Revelator (Angad) 4. 7, 1-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 07.29s. ₹16 (w), 13, 14 and 52 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 417, FP: 98, Q: 86, Trinella: 4,022, Exacta: 19,718 (carried over). Favourite: N R I Ace. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: Md. Sajid.

4. HOTEL R R R TROPHY (DIV. I): BRIGHTEST STAR (Trevor) 1, Heroism (Koshi K) 2, Terminator (J. Paswan) 3 and Contributor (M. Prabhakaran) 4. 3-3/4, 3-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 26.52s. ₹17 (w), 12, 14 and 81 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 127, FP: 35, Q: 14, Trinella: 646, Exacta: 21,427. Favourite: Brightest Star. Owner: Mr. Shapoor P Mistry rep. Manjri Horse Breed's Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: M. Eshwer.

5. RAJAKUMARI LEELAVATHI DEVI MEMORIAL TROPHY: GOLDEN PEAKS (Dhanu S) 1, Segera (Angad) 2, Knight In Hooves (S. Brahmmesh) 3 and Kalamitsi (Trevor) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and 1-1/2. 1m, 37.79s. ₹17 (w), 14 and 25 (p), SHP: 63, THP: 65, FP: 196, Q: 114, Trinella: 1,874, Exacta: 4,613. Favourite: Golden Peaks. Owners: Mr. Mukul A Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Girish Mehta & Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

6. MEERUT PLATE: THE PERFECT CHOICE (R. Pradeep) 1, Macron (Faiz) 2, Tower Quest (Angad) 3 and Indian Blues (Kiran Rai) 4. 3-1/4, 1-3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 05.83s. ₹134 (w), 50, 12 and 26 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 45, FP: 409, Q: 363, Trinella: 10,224, Exacta: 23,840 (carried over). Favourite: Macron. Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao. Trainer: Warren Singh.

7. JAGANMOHANA PALACE PLATE: MEGA SUCCESS (Vinod Shinde) 1, Ancient History (Trevor) 2, The Grey Geranium (M. Naveen) 3 and Akasi (Arvind K) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and 3. 1m, 26.17s. ₹104 (w), 22, 12 and 18 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 105, FP: 379, Q: 113, Trinella: 1,815, Exacta: 53,165 (carried over). Favourite: Ancient History. Owner & trainer: Mr. S. Inayathulla.

Jackpot: ₹13,118 (two tkts.); Runner-up: 864 (13 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: 2,187 (carried over); Treble (i): 197 (19 tkts.); (ii): 1,573 (carried over).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Dasara CM Cup Games 2024 inaugurated

MYSURU: The Dasara CM Cup Games 2024, was inaugurated by Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and Karnataka Chief Minister Sri. Siddaramaiah at the Chamundivihar stadium here on Thursday.

The games will see around 3000 sports persons from five divisions, Mysuru, Bengaluru (R), Bengaluru (C), Belagavi and Kalburgi take part in the events set to begin from Friday.

The games will conclude on the October 6.

Let the Games begin: Harmanpreet Singh, captain Indian men's hockey team, and Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah at the inauguration. M.A. SRIRAM

South Africa trounces Ireland

Agence France-Presse
ABU DHABI

Ryan Rickelton and Tristan Stubbs hit half-centuries as South Africa trounced Ireland by 139 runs in the first of the three One-Day Internationals in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. Victory allowed South Africa to avenge a shock T20 loss to the same opponent last weekend.

The scores: South Africa 271/9 in 50 overs (Rickelton 91, Stubbs 79, Adair 4/50) bt Ireland 132 in 31.5 overs (Williams 4/32).

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan

IFT No.13/2024-25, Dated: 03.10.2024

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per SBD-KW-4 & KC-1 Maximum tender amount is Rs.160.62 lakhs & Minimum tender amount is Rs.1.04 lakhs.The last date of receipt of tender is 10-10-2024 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPPP portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan.

ಮಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/532/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಐಎ/2024–25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary,

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/All Various Heads/TDR/2024-25/964 **Dt. 30-09-2024.**

Short Term Tender Notification
(Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for **24** work comprising of approved building works under **2515** ZP Untide Works, **2024-25** Ayush Dept Works. **2024-25** Agricultural Dept Works, **2515** ZP Building Works,**2024-25** Fisheries Dept Works, CMGSY Works,PMAAGY Works through KPPP portal. Contractors are required to submit the tender before **08-10-2024 at 4.30 PM** by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **30-09-2024 to 08-10-2024 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **09-10-2024** at **5.30 PM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/495/KSMCA/2024-25

Government of Karnataka

(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
Office of the Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division Bidar.

No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-2/2024-25/1097 Date: 03.10.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 19 works approved under various schemes as per KW-01, 02 & 03 in One Cover & Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum Rs. 2,53,625.02 (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five and paise two only) & Maximum Rs. 83,55,906.14 (Rupees Eighty Three Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Six and paise Fourteen only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on 03.10.2024 to or before 16.00 hours up to 18.10.2024 Technical Bid will be opened on 19.10.2024 & Financial Bid will be opened on 24.10.2024 respectively. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/184/KSMC&A/2024-25

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17012/17/2024/2024-25 **Date: 03.10.2024**
C. No. 1476225

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for iron ore mines"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and its amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka has identified nine iron ore mines for electronic auction for grant of Mining Lease.

S. No.	Name of the mine/ block	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha)	Estimated resources (in MMT)
1.	Jambunatha Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	164.98	21.35
2.	Karadikolla Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	133.8	23.24
3.	Kariganur Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	179.81	23.88
4.	Janthakal Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	71.16	12.51
5.	Rajapura South Iron Ore Block	Iron ore	18.74	3.116
6.	Rajapura North Iron Ore Block	Iron ore	34.97	8.539
7.	Vibuthigudda Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	119.71	31.04
8.	Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	88.00	25.98
9.	Janehar Iron Ore Mine	Iron ore	54.51	8.35

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed blocks are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd **(http://www.mstcecommerce.com/ auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp)**.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited (**http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp**). For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd by Paying Rs 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five Lakhs Only)+GST.

The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by the prospective bidder itself payable under the Reverse Charge Mechanism. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMG Karnataka /MSTC.

The sale of tender document shall commence from **04 October 2024**. Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is **20 November 2024**. Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is 17:00 hours IST **on 21 November 2024** Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka on or prior to **17:00 hours IST on 21 November 2024.**

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/CP/2329/Zenkar/2024-25

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2466/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001246)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 132/33 kV substation at Ajani BK along with associated line Dist. Latur under Ch. Sambhajinagar zone, on turnkey basis."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 01.10.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2465/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001247)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 132/33 kV Barashiv substation Dist. Hingoli along with associated line under Ch. Sambhajinagar Zone, on turnkey basis."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 01.10.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – 2 FINANCE DEPARTMENT

KPCL Green Building, 5th Floot, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No.: 080-22028205
E-mail: pdhrms2@karnataka.gov.in

No.: FD/HRMS/H-2(OSC)/1/2024 E-29134 Date: 30.09.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of an Agency for providing Specialized Technical Resources to the PMU of HRMS2 Directorate via the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The details are as follows:

Tender Number:	FD/2024-25/SE0008
Published Date:	30.09.2024
Tender Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time:	07.10.2024 11:30
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders:	14.10.2024 17:30

Bidder can download the tender document from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director
HRMS-2

DIPR/CP/2310/AKAR/2024-25

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

e-mail: zped_cta@yahoo.com zped.cta@gmail.com Ph: 08194-222372

No. P.Raj.E.D./CD/EE/TS/Tender/2024-25/1555 Date: 01.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only 03)

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited subject to Standard Document K.G. - 1 Rules, for 23 Works approved under Mahatma Gandhi NAREGA Scheme for the year 2023-24 in the limits of Panchayat Raj Engineering Division of Chitradurga District and Approx. Amount of Tender Minimum Rs. 62.0 lakhs, Maximum Rs. 90.13 lakhs, total Rs. 236.28 lakhs and dates are as below: **(1)** Last date and time for obtaining information 10.10.2024 at 11.00 Hrs. **(2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender 14.10.2024 at 16.00 Hrs. **(3)** Date and time for opening Technical Bid 15.10.2024 at 16.01 Hrs. **(4)** Date and time for opening Financial Bid 16.10.2024 at 16.02 Hrs. For further information regarding the Tender (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or contact KPPP Helpdesk Phone no.: +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or contact phone no. of this office: 08194-222372, Executive Engineer, P.Raj.E. Division, Chitradurga during office hours.

RO.No.294:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/84-2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs.) Lakhs / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0645/1024 [2nd Call] [RFX No.5000001306] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 420kV, 245kV & 145kV Class CBs (Circuit Breakers) under LE & R&M schemes for all the EHV PCC O&M zones of MSETCL.	2022.80/- / 25000.00	08.10.2024 08.10.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:05 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) No. 022-69852711/ Cell No.8329909813

Email: secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, eegrp6@mahatransco.in,

For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**

Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

(ನ್ಯಾಕ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮರು ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಎ' ಗ್ರೇಡ್ ವಡೆದದೆ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಾನಸಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು – 06 email:eeuom@um-mysore.ac.in, www.ani-mysore.ac.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಯು.ಇ.ಡಿ./ಡಿ.ಬಿ–1/694/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.09.2024

ಮರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: UOM/2024-25/IND0031

Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರು ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ನಿಯಮಗಳ 2000ರಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಜಿ–3ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.10.2024** ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯು ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಮ್ಮತಾ ಮಾನ್ಯತಾ ಅವಧಿಗಿಂತ (Validity period) 45 ದಿನಗಳ ನಂತರದವರೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಇರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು:

ಕ್ರಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಮಯ
1.	ಬಿಡ್ ಡ್ಯಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	27.09.2024	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
2.	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೋರುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	30.09.2024	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	04.10.2024	ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
4.	ಮಾದರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	05.10.2024	ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ
5.	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	07.10.2024	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
6.	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	09.10.2024	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1. ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **2.** ಈ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಹಣವನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಡಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ವಿಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821–2419383 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

DIPR/DDMYS-64/KSMCA-434/2024-25

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸ್ವ/ಪ್ರ)

Karnataka Government Secretariat

Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

No. FD 03 BMB 2024 **Date: 30.09.2024**

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **8.73% Karnataka SDL 2024** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka**, Finance Department Notification No. **FD 01 BMB 2014 dated October 22, 2014** will be repaid at par on **October 28, 2024** with interest due up to and including **October 28, 2024** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after October 29, 2024** .

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **8.73% Karnataka SDL 2024** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate"

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub-Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer), Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/RO2320/AAPL/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Health Officer (East), 9th Floor, P.U.Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-01

No. H.O(East)/PR/1241/2024-25 **Date : 03-10-2024**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REQUEST PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY OF CHEMICALS (TEMIPHOS 50%, PYRETHRUM EXTRACT & TECHNICAL MALATHION) AND GAS CANS/CYLINDERS, ALPHACYPERMETNIM 10% SC AND BIO-OVITRAPS FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN EAST ZONE BBMP SIX RANGES (HEBBAL, PULIKESHINAGAR, SHIVAJINAGAR, SARVAGNANAGAR, SHANTHINAGAR, C.V.RAMAN NAGAR)

(1) RFP Reference No. : BBMP/HO/E/966/2024-2025 **(2)** Date of commencement of download of RFP document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** : **From 04-10-2024 onwards. (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal : **07-10-2024 up to 5:00 PM (4)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **07-10-2024 at 3:00 PM** at the following venue : 9th Floor, PU Building MG Road, Bengaluru-560001. **(5)** Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal : **14-10-2024 up to 5:00 PM (6)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal : **15-10-2024 at 5:10 PM (7)** Place of Opening of RFP Applications : Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(8)** Address for Communication : Office of Zonal Health Officer (East), 9th Floor, PU Building MG Road, Bengaluru-560001.

Requirement as per below mentioned.

Sl. No.	Chemical Name	Requirement
1	Temiphos 50%	660
2	Technical Malathion	220
3	Pyrethrum Extract	220
4	Gas Cylinders / Can	3000
5	Alphacypermethirn 10% SC	600
6	Bio-Ovitraps	250

Only online Queries through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

Sd/- Health Officer (East), BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Commercial Complex 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru - 560 030.

No: EE(BTM)/kppp/06/2024-25 **Date: 03-10-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders for the following Goods on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of BBMP or Any reputed Agencies, equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	1st Call
1	Providing New Street Name Board and Stickering to Existing name board & other works in Ward No.173 (Old No.148) Ejipura. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 25,000/-. **Category:** SC. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
2	Improvements and Construction of Culverts in Koramangala Ward Jurisdiction in Ward No. 173 (Old No.148) Ejipura. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 18,750/-. **Category:** SC. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
3	Providing New Street Name Board and Stickering to Existing name board & other works in Ward No.174 (Old No.151) Koramangala. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
4	Improvements and Construction of Culverts in Koramangala Ward Jurisdiction in Ward No. 174 (Old No.151) Koramangala. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 37,500/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
5	Providing New Street Name Board and Stickering to Existing name board & other works in Ward No.175 (Old No.173) (Jakkasandra). **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
6	Construction and Improvements to Drains and Roads and Other Developmental Works in Rajendra Nagar in Ward No.176 (Old No.147) Adugodi. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
7	Providing New Street Name Board and Stickering to Existing name board & other works in Ward No.176 (Old No.147) Audugodi. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
8	Providing New Street Name Board and Stickering to Existing name board & other works in Ward No.177 Lakkasandra. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 14.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 17,500/-. **Category:** SC. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
9	Improvements to drains in 2nd cross road Nanjappa Layout in Ward No.180 Someshwara Temple. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 18,750/-. **Category:** ST. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
10	Improvements to drains in 30th Main, 4th B Cross and surrounding area in Ward No.180 Someshwara Temple. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
11	Improvements to drains in 4th Main, N S Palya in Ward No.181 BTM Layout. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 25,000/-. **Category:** SC. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
12	Improvements to drains in 13th A Cross in Ward No.181 BTM Layout. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 37,500/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 90 Days.
13	Repairs and Maintenance of BBMP NGV Quarters buildings in BTM Layout Constituency. **Approximate value of work:** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 25,000/-. **Category:** Others. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 60 Days.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK KPP portal. (2) Pre-bid meeting on: **15-10-2024 @ 3.00 p.m.** (3) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is: **23-10-2024 upto 4.00 p.m.** (4) Last date of Opening of the Tender document on : **24-10-2024 @ 4.30 p.m.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
BTM Layout Division, BBMP

25%
TO
45%
OFF ON
MAKING CHARGES*
FOR PLAIN GOLD
JEWELLERY
KALYAN
JEWELLERS
TRULY
Deepawali
FLAT 35%
OFF ON
MAKING CHARGES*
FOR TEMPLE & ANTIQUE
JEWELLERY
FLAT 30%
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FOR PREMIUM GOLD
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